

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April 2003

Volume 56

Number 2

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AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

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AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. E-mail promers22@hotmail.com

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

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COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 801 N. Villier Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Baton Rouge, LA - April 20-27, 2003; Tucson, AZ - April 11-18, 2004.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$10.50 per 100; 500 to 900 \$9.25 per 100; 1000 and over - \$7.00 per 100.

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JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. avmads@msn.com

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

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\$49 - 2 Years \$73 - 3 Years

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African Violet

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Ma's Second Thoughts
Best African Violet in Show
Commercial Specimen
2002 AVSA National Show
Hybridized and Grown by:
Olive Ma Robinson
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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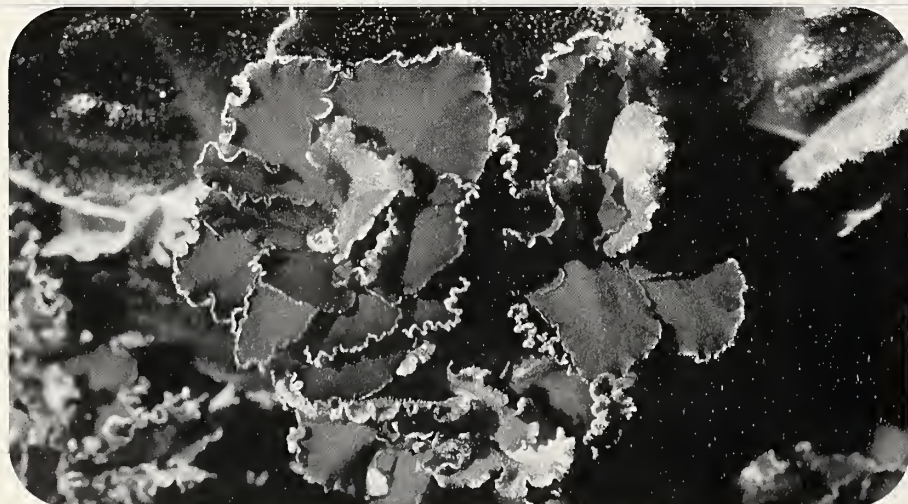
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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message



SMITHSONIAN

APR 01 2003

CHARLES

Dear AVSA Members,

This is a very exciting time for AVSA members. We are busy grooming show plants for our spring shows while also getting our top plants ready for the big national convention in Baton Rouge. How many plants are you bringing this year? Don't be left out and not bring home any of the many convention awards because you did not bring plants.

The convention registrations continue to arrive at our AVSA office daily. Congratulations to our early birds. **Adele Petty** from Denton, Texas was first with her registration postmarked December 31, followed closely by **Joan and Wayne Watts** from Colo, Iowa and **Carole Neumann** from Denton, Texas.



Most members are taking advantage of the **Package Deal** which includes registration, both banquets on Friday and Saturday evening, and the auction luncheon. We are expecting record numbers at all functions, so get your convention registration forms in quickly. Be an active member of what will be a terrific convention.

Tours are always a big highlight of our conventions. This year's tours promise to be full and fun. There is something that will interest everyone. From stately mansions and plantations, alligators, and Prejean's Restaurant to the beautiful city of New Orleans, we will have fun-filled days waiting for the convention's violet activities to start. Check out the "purple pages" in the January/February AVM for details.

Dr. Charles L. Cole's *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets* has been reprinted. He and our AVSA Publications Committee have made it more reader friendly. You will now find definitions given after those words that we are not familiar with on a routine basis. He has also updated the pesticide chart and provided information on mixing the products in small hobbyist quantities. Georgene Albrecht provided the new cover drawing. Thank you, Dr. Cole, and everyone who contributed to this effort.

As I mentioned in my last message, we have additional exciting projects coming in the months ahead. Our many volunteer committees are working hard to provide additional products and services to you, our valued AVSA members.

A special "thank you" goes out to **Mosette Eibert** from Redding, California. She and her husband donated a lap top computer to AVSA. We will use this at convention to ensure our entries process is timely and accurate. Those of you who were at the Washington, DC convention will remember how quick and smoothly the entries process was for both commercial and amateur exhibitors. This year's will be better, as we improve on last year's effort. We can use some additional lap top computers if you happen to have a fairly recent vintage one you can donate.

Individual members, our hard working Membership and Promotion Committee members, and our ever-improving AVSA website continue to bring many new members to AVSA. For the first time in years, we gained members overall during the year. Thanks for all your fine efforts.

New members are the sustaining lifeblood of any organization and bring both new ideas and revenue to the organization. We continue to need your help in growing our membership numbers. Membership allows us to provide a bigger and better *African Violet Magazine* and increase the products and services available to our members and affiliates.

Affiliates can promote AVSA memberships at their shows and meetings. An AVSA membership to the local home for the aged or a local library can help towards an affiliate's goal of promoting AVSA and violets. Individual members can use AVSA memberships as gifts throughout the year. Members have given memberships for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, and just to say, "I'm thinking of you." What a great way to be remembered all year long.

I hope to see all of you at our annual convention in Baton Rouge. I'm really looking forward to this show. I know that you will want to be a part of it. Remember, there are many awards, and someone will win them. Why not you?

Make sure you are prompt in getting in your registration forms. You can really save if you get yours in before the March 21 deadline for the Early Bird Discount.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

This issue marks **Dr. Jeff Smith's** sixtieth column in this publication. Jeff has been writing "In Search of New Violets" for ten years! Thank you so much, Jeff. We all appreciate the contributors to the AVM, especially those who are regular columnists.

In a few weeks, we'll be heading to Baton Rouge for the 2003 AVSA Convention. As Baton Rouge is just a few hours away from Beaumont, we'll be driving this year, and will have lots of goodies to sell at the AVSA Sales Table!

Be sure to come by and introduce yourself. Our Board of Directors and the 2003 Board Nominees will be assisting me at the Sales Table and Jenny in the Registration area. This will give you a chance to meet some of the volunteers who work to ensure that AVSA remains the success it has been since its beginning in 1946.

One thing I know you've been looking forward to is the reprint of **Dr. Charles Cole's** book, "*Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets*". The book has been slightly revised and made a bit "user-friendly" for the hobby grower. With Charles' permission, I included common terms in parenthesis after some of the more technical words. Charles updated the pesticide chart to remove the chemicals that are no longer approved by the EPA and added a few new ones. He was also kind enough to expand the mixing chart with instructions for smaller quantities, which will come in very handy for you hobby growers.

Our "Family Portrait" columnist, **Georgene Albrecht**, has provided us with a beautiful new drawing of an African violet to grace the cover. I know you'll want to purchase one, so come by the Sales Table! The book will be available through the AVSA office after the convention.

The occasional typo occurs, no matter how hard we look for them. I had a biggy slip by last issue - our nominee for President, **Janet Riemer**, was listed instead as a nominee for Director. Please read Janet's corrected bio on page 5. I do apologize, Janet!

Our Production Manager for this magazine, and General Manager of Becker Printing, **Valerie Phillips**, will once again be joining us at the convention. If you haven't met Valerie, I hope to have her "volunteer" to work at the Sales Table with me, so look for her when you stop by.

We are very fortunate to have the Becker Printing team working so closely with us. With the assistance of Becker Printing owner, **Todd McKinley**, our very own typesetter, **Shirley Jones**, and **Valerie**, the printing of the AVM is a smooth operation. This is the fortieth year that Becker Printing has been publishing the African Violet Magazine - quite a milestone.

Once again, I ask you to PLEASE pay attention to the deadlines listed in the inside front cover of this magazine. The deadline for Coming Event notices for **this issue** was **January 1st**. I received an incredible amount of notices in the last week of January! Please have your club's Publicity Chair make a note of the deadlines. I hate to leave your club out of the listing, as I know how many clubs rely on the funds raised by plant sales, but I cannot hold up the printing of the magazine.

I heard from AVSA member, **Lurline Stahl**, Virginia Beach, VA, who wrote about the solace she found in growing African violets during her husband's long illness, and death last spring. I have heard from members in the past about the comfort they found in tending their plants in times of sorrow and loss. Lurline wrote:

"We are so blessed with wonderful growers in the United States and Canada, who share their plants with us. The excitement and anticipation of a new order is a feeling we violeteers know so well!

"Now my violets are received with love and attention, and yes, a few tears, too. But never underestimate the power of African violets. They brighten, nourish, and help you through rough times. Viva la beguiling violet - may you be forever!"

Please make this addition to the list of AVSA Judges in the
September/October 2002 AVM.

Doris Till, Senior Judge
2927 Canterbury Ct.
Montgomery AL 36111-1225

2002 AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE



For President: Janet Riemer

Janet Riemer is from Pennington, New Jersey, and has been a member of AVSA for thirty-eight years. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969, and has served in many offices for that club. Janet became an AVSA Honorary Life Member in 1996, and is a Master Judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the NJ Council of AV Judges and the TriState AV Council since 1971, and is a great promoter of the much-loved Max Maas hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA on many committees: as director,

nine years as Secretary, two years as Second Vice President, and two years as First Vice President. She is currently the AVSA archivist. Janet received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership in 1984 and a Continuing Service Award in 1987.

She is married with two adult children. She holds a BS and a MS degree and taught college for fourteen years. Retired from a position of preservation archivist in Special Collections & University Archives at Rutgers University in 1999, she is employed part-time as a preservation aide at Rider University. Janet has been a genealogist for many years, is co-editor of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, and is past president of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey.

Unpacking Plant Shipments

by Pauline Bartholomew
From her Book "Growing to Show"

New growers are often disappointed when they receive their first mail order plant shipment. They expect to open the box and pull out perfect little plantlets in full bloom. However, plants just don't ship in that kind of condition. They are usually rolled in a cylinder of newspaper or cardboard and, while there may be lots of foliage, it is usually leggy and floppy. However, the grower soon learns that the shipment will pay big dividends. The outer leaves are removed and put down for propagation. The plantlets are potted up into 4" pots and in a few months will be well-formed with full foliage. And so, the grower gets far more than just one plant for his money.

Spring through fall is the shipping season for most commercial growers. Year round shipping is possible from temperate zones to adjoining temperate zones. Check the commercial suppliers advertisements for instructions.

UNPACKING PLANTS: Unwrap the plants carefully, removing all plastic wrapping and tape. As you work, keep track of plant name tags and check names against the order (there may be substitutes). Don't forget to make out cards for each variety for your files.

1. *Plants (8" or more in diameter) with fresh, firm foliage:* If in bloom, disbud. Remove elongated outer leaves to put down for propagation. Pot into 4" tub pots, following the directions for potting up plantlets.

2. *Plants with firm foliage but which are too small to pot up:* Water with Super-thrive® solution (two drops to a pint) and place under lights. Pot up when large enough.
3. *The occasional plant that may be quite puny:* Water with Superthrive® solution and place in a plastic bag until the foliage perks up (which may be a week or so). Open the top of the bag, but wait until the plant shows signs of growth before removing the bag completely. Pot up when large enough.

UNPACKING LEAVES: Unwrap leaves carefully to avoid breaking petioles.

1. *Leaves that are firm and in good condition:* Re-cut petioles and put down the leaves. As an added precaution, bag pot and all for a few days to insure that they have recovered from shipping and will remain firm.
2. *Leaves that are limp:* Re-cut the petiole and submerge the leaf completely in tepid water. Leave submerged as long as necessary (even days) until firm again. Pot according to directions for putting down leaves. Bag for a few days to insure a good start.

All newly acquired plants, no matter from what source, should be potted up immediately if they are large enough and in good condition. The sooner they are potted according to your methods and in your soil mix, the faster they will adapt to your conditions. Be sure and check for pests.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

email: Patter257@aol.com

KEEPING EM SMALL

So you've decided to try growing a miniature or semi-miniature African violet? The reasons could be many. You have limited space and want more variety. You are particularly drawn to small, miniature things. You've mastered standards, trailers, and other gesneriads and are ready for the "next" challenge. Perhaps you're simply curious. Indeed, there are subtle differences in growing minis and semis as compared to standards; however, there is one striking difference between the two which is the basis for our discussion today. Simply, standards are meant to be grown large, with no size restrictions except the plant's inherent ability to achieve a certain size, while minis and semis are governed by strict size limitations, with ultimate growth being channeled into more blooms and more layers instead of breadth and depth. How do we go about this?

ENVIRONMENT VS. EVOLUTION

It has been said that a key to keeping minis and semis small is to not overcrowd them. The rationale is when they are crowded, they tend to grow larger to obtain better access to light, kind of a "survival of the fittest" argument. For years though, I grew my plants very crowded and found their size depended not so much on spacing but on the natural tendency of the plant, in other words, heredity. Further, with the remarkable advances in miniature and semiminiature hybridizing over the past twenty years, keeping small ones in size has become less of a problem. For years, hybridizers had to introduce standards into the mini and semi gene pool to achieve greater variation in foliage and bloom, but with the broad range of mini and semi cultivars available to hybridizers today, the "standard-ness" of the minis and semis is being bred out. Nevertheless, there is the occasional need to control the growth of a mini or semi.

POTS

If you are familiar with the concept of "bonsai" you should understand the importance of pot size to growing

minis and semis. Bonsai is the technique used to develop miniaturized plants by restricting root growth so that normal size foliage, stems, etc., cannot be supported, resulting in mature plants being a scintilla of their normal size. In my opinion, miniature and semiminiature African violets can be treated in a very similar manner: their ultimate size can be controlled by the size of the pot they are grown in, in addition to frequent and careful repotting (pruning in the case of bonsai). To know which size of pot to use, you must know your plant!

Thumb pots - A great amount of success can be gained by planting mini and semi African violet starter plants in thumb pots (pots which are barely as wide or as tall as your thumb). Even the largest semis can be controlled using this technique. You'll notice the plant stays smaller, as does the width of the leaf blade, but the flower will remain largely unchanged. Fascinating! The greatest difficulty with this technique is repotting, as there is so little soil to work with. As the plant ages and the "neck" forms, it becomes almost impossible to repot them in a satisfactory manner. I assure you though, if the bonsai masters can do it, you can too, with patience and a lot of practice. Plants can be wick watered using small prescription medicine vials or glass baby-food juice jars with smaller openings (some are even being made in plastic now - hurrah!), or they can be watered on matting, etc. Another problem with thumb pot African violets is getting them close enough to the lights. Using tall medicine vials, growing them on a shelf devoted exclusively to thumb pot plants, or whatever method you can devise, will help assure these plants get the light they need.

Stepping up from the thumb pots are the 2" pots. These are wonderful for miniatures, and will keep the size of the plant very small. Fay Wagman of Violet Venture grows her delightful minis and semis using these small pots.

Moving up are the 2 and one-quarter inch pots. There are basically two types, the shorter, squatty pot and a taller, thinner type. Both are good for minis and for semis which may tend to get oversize. Again, the more you can control the root

growth, the more you will be able to keep the minis and semis to their sweet, diminutive size. This size is my favorite size for use with both minis and semis.

Next are the 2 and one-half inch pots. Only the most well-behaved and controlled of the semis should be placed in these pots, as they allow more soil, and therefore more room for root expansion and growth. Grower beware!

As for 3" pots, there are some growers who use these, with large, overgrown plants the result. They can put on and support magnificent heads of bloom, but the cost is plants which are pushing 9-10" in diameter, approach the characteristics of small standards, and which have lost the "charm" of the small ones. They hardly invoke thoughts of the dainty plants one usually associates with miniature African violets.

Briefly then, identify your goals as a grower (show, bloom, size?) and know your plant (mini, large growing semi, etc.), and pot accordingly. Experimenting with the various options may surprise you!

PLASTIC/CLAY

We have taught ourselves so well about the inherent - positive attributes of plastic pots. They are easy to clean, lightweight, and they do not break. Furthermore, they do not allow evaporation, and thus, retain water which reduces the need to water. Plastic is wonderful! Yet, is there any room to reconsider?

Going back to dear Fay from upstate New York, I was surprised to learn she grows some of her plants in clay. What could her reasoning be? Perhaps that clay allows her plant to breathe? We all know good oxygen ratio in the soil is necessary for strong, healthy root growth. Also, how many times have you tipped over your minis and semis in their lightweight soil and their lightweight plastic pots? Could clay pots possibly have an advantage here?

By now, those of you who know me well know I like to test certain "beliefs" and have begun growing a few of my small ones in clay pots. As I also like to show plants, I understand they'll have to be transplanted to a clean, plastic pot for show, but I'm willing to experiment. Results in an upcoming article!

THE BLOSSOM THING

Those of you familiar with heavy-duty "growing for

show", know it is imperative you not allow your show plants to bloom as that deprives your foliage of energy it needs for growth, destroys symmetry, and results in "off-size" or smaller leaves. Now, apply that to growing minis and semis...

If your goal is plants which stay small and "in-size", should you allow your plant to bloom? The plant's energies will not be funneled into creating a "super" plant, and the actual size of the leaf will be more diminutive. It is likely symmetry will be affected, but with proper watching and channeling, it should not be a problem. Naturally symmetrical plants will stay as such, regardless of blooming or not.

The only problem which will result is the possibility you may have to fight a more active battle with thrips, but a watchful eye and quick control can take care of that. The result, as unfortunate as it might be, will be continuous, bright, cheerful bloom. How unfortunate! For those of you who show plants, if bloom boosting is necessary, a complete disbudding 10-12 weeks before show, increasing light by one hour per week 7-10 weeks before show, accompanied by a shot of high phosphorous fertilizer (12-36-14, 12-55-17) 6-7 weeks before show should suffice. Your small ones will not suffer for a lack of blooms.

TEMPERATURE

A final factor which has an effect on plant growth is the temperature at which it is grown. Cooler temperatures result in slower, more compact growth. Warmer temperatures result in faster, more open growth. If you're having trouble controlling the size of your small ones, it may be necessary to try to find a cooler spot for them to grow.

FUTURE THOUGHTS

In less than two months, the AVSA convention will be convening in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I hope as many of you as possible will attend, as so much can be gained from attending convention: meeting wonderful friends, accessing a wide variety of information, purchasing plants, and being able to view some of the most outstanding African violets in the world. All that in addition to having a lot of fun!

Until next time, keep an eye out for mildew during this season when temperatures fluctuate so greatly, and review and renew your collection. Take care!



In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
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According to my records, this will be my 60th column for "In Search of New Violets". With six issues a year, this means that I have been writing about the hybridizing of African violets for 10 years. This seems to be an appropriate time to thank all of the readers who have submitted questions during that time. It would be difficult to write this column without your continued interest and curiosity.

During the last year, the African violet community has lost several of our pioneer hybridizers such as Frank Tinari and Don Ness. The efforts of these individuals and others have been key in producing the plants we know and love today. The goal of this column has been to help spread knowledge on how to hybridize and how to combine the traits discovered by our pioneers into new combinations. If this column has assisted any of the new generation of hybridizers in trying their hand in creating new plants, I will consider my efforts over the years to be well spent.

Q: *I have a seedling that has tipped flowers (darker color at the tips of the petals), but it also has dark markings at the base of each petal near the flower's center. Do you think this trait will be inherited if I cross this seedling with another plant with tipped flowers, with the goal of intensifying the color at the flower tips?*

A: There is a good possibility that the markings at the base of the petals will be inherited along with the tipped flower trait. However, you run a risk of having the color intensify in the entire petal, not only at the tips, which may mask or hide the markings. I would try the cross you suggested, but I would also try self-pollinating your seedling, which should intensify both tips and spots in a few seedlings. If the original seedling has some undesirable traits, then try crossing it with a plant that has good characteristics and also has pale flowers without tips. This cross should give you a plant with more desirable characteristics and conserve the tipped markings in the flowers.

Q: *There have been several e-mail group discussions about the Clackamas foliage. How is this type of foliage inherited?*

A: Clackamas foliage is an unusual type of foliage that has the veins running in near parallel lines from the petiole to the leaf tip. This foliage has also been called "watermelon" foliage in some of the older references. It is an easy genetic trait to work with as it is inherited as a dominant. When a plant with Clackamas foliage is used as a parent, approximately 50% of the offspring should have that foliage type. I am not aware of any difference in appearance between homozygous dominant (which have two copies of the gene) or heterozygous plants (which have one gene copy), but I suspect the homozygous dominant plants may have distorted leaves due to the double expression of the foliage trait.

Q: *Some of the older hybridizers advocate breeding for the foliage first, then worry about the flowers. Is there any advantage to this breeding system?*

A: I suspect that this system reflects our knowledge of plant genetics and how to apply them to get desirable plants. Many of the leaf mutations, such as quilted foliage, girl foliage, wavy foliage, etc. are genetic dominants. Once these traits were established in a breeding stock, they maintained themselves easily because dominant traits will be passed on in every generation. The hybridizer could more or less forget about the foliage while they focused on the inheritance of the flower traits. As they manipulated the flower traits, the foliage traits would more or less maintain themselves. It was easier to "fix" one set of traits while trying to manipulate the second.

Today, many hybridizers have a better understanding about genetics and are able to work with multiple traits at the same time. They can manipulate both foliage and flower traits simultaneously, and get good results. Because of better knowledge, it's less necessary to "fix" one set of traits while working with the others. However, the old system works

very well, and I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about hybridizing plants.

Q: *Can the thumbprint pattern be expressed on any other background color than white?*

A: The thumbprint flower pattern is normally expressed as an area of color in the center of the petals surrounded by an edge of white. The amount of white is highly variable and can change in response to temperature and perhaps other growing conditions. White color is the result of the absence of the enzymes that make the flower color pigments. So what the thumbprint mutation is really doing is allowing the pigment enzymes to function in the flower petal centers, but not the edges. In order to get a non-white area, the enzymes would have to work to some degree. Currently, the thumbprint gene seems to be an "all or none" mutation. You either make enzymes or you don't, similar to an "off/on" switch. Because of this, I don't think it is possible to get the background in any other color with the current thumbprint gene mutation.

However, one of the very nice things about African violets is that they do mutate freely. It is possible that a new mutation could occur that would allow the pigment making enzymes to partially function, resulting in a non-white background color. I would predict that you might get a dominant color like blue in the center of the petals surround by a recessive color such as pink. I'm not aware of such a mutation at this time, but it might be possible. If you find such a plant, please send me a leaf.

Q: *Have there been any studies to determine what is the most likely pollinator for African violets in the wild?*

A: To the best of my knowledge, there hasn't been a pollination study conducted on wild African violets. Based on the flower structure, botanists suspect a bee that visits the flower using "buzz pollination" may be the possible pollinator for African violets. These suspicions are based on the blue flower color and the large contrasting yellow stamens. Both blue and yellow are visible to bees, but not to other types of pollinators. African violets do not produce nectar, so pollinators that feed on nectar, such as butterflies or birds, are unlikely to be attracted to the flowers. Bees are known to feed on pollen, so pollen would appear to be the reward available from the flowers.

The anthers of African violets do not split to release their pollen. There is a small pore at the tip that can release the pollen, or the pollen can be released if the visitor punctures the anthers (such as with thrips). Some bees vibrate the flowers they visit. The resulting "buzz" causes the pollen to be released from the pores, allowing the bee to collect their reward. The tomato is an example of a plant that is pollinated by buzz pollination.

Buzz pollination has not yet been documented in wild African violets. In fact, the failure to observe the pollinator may indicate that it has gone extinct. In any case, the only pollination report that I've seen is a story from a woman in South Africa who had African violets in a greenhouse. A carpenter bee (species not reported) was observed to visit many of the flowers. Carpenter bees are known as buzz pollinators for some plant species. The woman reported that numerous flowers on the African violets set seed capsules, presumably from the visits of the carpenter bee. A good scientific study is needed in order to really be sure what is pollinating the wild African violet plants.

Considering Mail Order?

by Lisa DiMambro

Bear in mind when ordering plants by mail that most African violet vendors selling by mail order are simply hobbyists that are giving the rest of us our "violet fix". Very few are full-time big businesses; most owners have other full-time jobs. Most vendors accumulate a backlog of orders over the winter, and it takes time for them to catch up. When you order plants or leaves, please list substitutions that you are willing to accept if the grower is out of certain varieties. If you did list substitutions and the grower shorted your order, contact them to work this matter out. If this fails, contact the AVSA office and they can advise you further.

Upon receiving your plants, ISOLATE. None of our commercials knowingly send out plants with critters or diseases, but it pays to be careful. Isolate the new plants away from the rest



of your collection, preferably in another room. However, the opposite side of the room will do if need be. Keep the plants isolated for at least three months, checking them frequently for signs of pests or disease. If you do have a problem, it is much easier to treat the new plants rather than your whole collection, and you are not risking the rest of your plants.

Looking for insecticides? Check the advertising section in the back of the *African Violet Magazine*. Make sure the vendor you choose sends you the chemical in the original container, or one that is properly labeled and sends you any warning information that comes with the chemical.

Ordering by mail can be convenient and rewarding.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

“And the winners are ...”



Mary J. Corondan
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Plano, TX 75024

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Candy Kisses, Cajun Heritage, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Spin-out, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Antique Rose; Best Standard: Buckeye Candy Kisses; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Poppy Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschlynantlius hildebrandii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Lyon's June Bug, **Lynne Wilson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bob Green**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Powwow, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Powwow; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Hopi II; Design Sweepstakes, **Judith Smith**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Marion's Enchanted Trail, Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Lilli Pili; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita longensis*, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marianne Gershon**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Margaret Cass**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Mildred Knorr**.

CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia nitida*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia diffilis*; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Sonata, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Dean's Cupid; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Standard: Rebel's Rosebud; Best Miniature: Rob's Vanilla Pink; Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Hera', **David Thompson**. Best Design, **Carol Magoon**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard**.

GULF, AVC, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Affection, Illini Peace, Harbor Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Illini Peace; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hand Puppet; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Giles**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Catherine Carter**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Argyle Socks, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Linda Ireland**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Anna-Marie Rinick**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Lillian Scott**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Siberian Moon, **Mark Weston**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Red Bandito; Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pili, Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Humpty Doo, **John Nabers**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise, **Shirley Sanders**. Best Standard: Rebel's Crested Robin, **Richard Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Sherrie Wallace**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant', **Debra Mischel**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

MID-AMERICA AVS, KS – Winners: Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink; Best Standard: Apache Showoff; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Raymond Russell**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Tricia Taylor**. Best Design, **Laurie Nelson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dona Stilwell**.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chinook Wind, Graffiti, Smooch Me; Best in Show/Best

Standard: Graffiti, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia nitida*, *Saintpaulia pendula*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Trailer: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Dean's Sonata; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Cloudy Skies; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Chocolate Warrior', **Fran Russom**. Best Design, **Joyce Stork**.

NEW YORK STATE AND MID-ATLANTIC AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Caltanisetta, Picasso, B-Man's Corleone; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Etna, **Bruno Curcurato**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alliance, Pueblo, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Little Pueblo, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Ness' Satin Rose, **Doug Burdeck**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Loose Noodle, Rob's Rinky Dink, Rob's Bunny Hop, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Azurite; Best Trailer: Chantaspring, **Roxanne Shrewsburg**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea kerrii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**. Best Design, **Karyn Cechocki**.

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie II, Optimara Monet, Optimara Trinidad, **Ann Butler**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie, Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Barbados; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sport of Champagne Pink; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Rosalie; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles Red Honey, Candy Crystals, Rob's Dust Storm, **Richard Bower**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Gleeful Elf, Rob's Soliloquy, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Marge Roseberg**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Early Bird', **Nancy Gibson**.

QUANNAPOWITT AVC, NH – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Donna Marie, Marching Band; Best Standard: Powwow, **Holly Walker**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Optimara Wisconsin, Optimara Hawaii, **Tom Roberge**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita kitagonii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy DiMambro**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Marie Montaque**. Best Miniature: Aly's Blizzard Bunny, **Nancy Manozzi**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Yesterday's Love, Suncoast Candy Stripe, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Cool Fruit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cool Fruit; Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy**. 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Soliloquy, Orchard's Wonder Twin, Rob's Rinky Dink; Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin, **Ann Wang**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Imperial Jade'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, The Alps, Rebel's Charmin' Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bright Eyes'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arlene Gavens**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Outer Orbit, Rob's Monkeyshines, Rob's Little Pueblo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Little Pueblo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Nancy Braun**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Powwow, **Kevin Degner**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pili; Design Sweepstakes, **Alice Peterson**.

Constructive Observations from Judging

Gary R. Beck • San Francisco, CA

Every time that I judge a violet show, I see plants which would have scored higher if a little time had been taken to improve the appearance, from a week before to the night or hours before judging. Here are some suggestions:

1) Spent Flowers

This is the number one problem. If you are exhibiting a plant with a healthy head of flowers, there is no need to hope getting more points with fading or spent flowers. If you are short on the count, these flowers will not assist you. Take them off carefully, using small, sharp scissors, cutting the stem right back to the main flower stem. If a flower is wilting, remove it since by the time the judges see it, it will be worse.

2) Immature Outer Leaves

Sometimes, you may see an outer gap in the symmetry and may make it worse by removing an outer leaf which is smaller than the row of leaves above it. It is a judgment call. If you have several such leaves, it is best to remove them and accept the gaps. The judges will mark down for these immature outer leaves. Try to remove any marred leaf and move the remaining foliage around to fill the gap.

3) Layering Leaves

Always place the inner leaves over the outer leaves. The outer row should be beneath the next row in. Big leaves should be on top of small leaves. Many times you can cover small foliage marks by moving the leaves.

4) Potting Mix, Dust, Hairs

Every plant can gain more points by having it washed and brushed lightly. A couple of days before the show, move the plant slowly under gentle warm tap water in a sink, turning the plant in a circle so that all leaves are washed, but keeping any water from the center crown. Place on newspapers, allow to dry, and then return to the growing place.

The day before judging, take a soft brush and, starting in the center, brush toward the outer leaves. Brush all particles that have remained after the bathing. Look closely for pet hairs and remove them. Several points can be added to the plant total with a simple, quick grooming of the foliage. The plant will have a brighter look.

5) Suckers

Look closely on all sides of the plant to locate any tiny interior leaves which may be the start of a sucker arising from either the stem or the soil. Remove all traces of the stems and leaves. A sucker with four leaves will mean that the plant is not single-crowned and cannot be judged unless it is a trailer.

6) Plant Neck or Trunk

As older, outer leaves are removed, a neck appears since the African violet grows upward with no side branches. Sometimes a palm tree appearance will occur. Take the plant out of its pot, cut off the bottom root ball in length equal to the length of the neck. Sink back down into the pot and add fresh potting mix, water well, and allow to rest. Brush any potting mix from the stems to present a clean look. This chore should be done the week or so prior to judging, but can be risked the days before, with the possibility that the plant may wilt.

7) Flower Spacing

For best scoring, the plant should have flowers spaced all around the crown, in a circle. If there are more flower stems on one side of the plant, try gently moving some over a bit. If done as the flower stems first appear, you can space out the stems evenly and not risk breakage. The older and firmer the stem, the greater the chance of breakage, so use caution.

With proper, careful grooming prior to the judging, a plant which would receive a high red ribbon (87-89 points) can easily be raised to the low blue ribbon (90-92).

From the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter



Tally Time 2002

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
20 Calvin Circle • Evanston, Illinois

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2002. This year it is based on eighty-five reports, and I have divided them into six areas.

Show chairs, please note the names of winning 2003 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted. I must send my completed report to the AVM by December 1.

STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
17	2	1	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	11	3
12	1	2	Bertha B. Foster #6159	5	4
9	1	0	Windy Day Stork/Boone #7719	4	3
8	1	1	Fisherman's Paradise B. Sisk #4843	4	2
8	1	1	Optimara Trinidad Holtkamp #6602	4	2
8	2	0	Powwow K. Stork #7708	3	3

SEMIMIINIATURES

38	4	1	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	20	13
26	4	0	Rob's Boogie Woogie R. Robinson #8606	13	9
16	0	0	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	15	1
10	1	0	Rob's Antique Rose R. Robinson #8451	7	2
10	1	0	Rob's Cool Fruit R. Robinson #8608	6	3

MINIATURES

14	1	0	Orchard's Bumble Magnet R. Wilson #8479	7	6
7	0	3	Rob's Rinky Dink R. Robinson #8739	2	4
6	0	1	Orchard's Wonder Twin R. Wilson #8873	2	3

TRAILERS

9	0	0	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	4	6
7	0	0	Marion's Enchanted Trail H. Pittman #8478	1	6
7	0	0	Rob's Lilli Pilli R. Robinson #8063	3	5

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

16	0	1	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	2	13
9	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> <i>S. 10b</i>	1	7
8	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i> <i>S. 5</i>	2	5

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS							
Picasso	17	2	1	4	3	2	5
Bertha	12	6	1	1	0	4	0
Windy Day	9	0	0	4	3	0	2
Fisherman Paradise	8	3	0	0	4	0	1
Optimara Trinidad	8	1	4	2	1	0	0
Powwow	8	0	3	5	0	0	0
SEMIMINIATURES							
Ness' Crinkle Blue	38	6	18	5	5	3	1
Rob's Boogie Woogie	26	8	6	2	6	4	0
Irish Flirt	16	2	5	3	4	2	0
Rob's Antique Rose	10	1	0	2	0	4	3
Rob's Cool Fruit	10	4	1	1	0	0	4
MINIATURES							
Orchard's Bumble Magnet	14	5	4	3	1	1	0
Rob's Rinky Dink	7	1	3	1	0	0	2
Orchard's Wonder Twin	6	2	1	1	0	2	0
TRAILERS							
Rob's Boolaroo	10	2	4	2	1	0	1
Rob's Lilli Pilli	8	0	6	1	1	0	0
Marion's Enchanted Trail	7	2	1	2	1	1	0
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES							
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	16	1	4	6	1	4	0
<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i>	9	1	3	2	1	1	1
<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	8	3	2	1	0	1	1
NUMBER OF WINNERS	247	50	67	48	32	29	21
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED	85	12	23	19	9	13	9

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Arizona-2, California-8, Colorado-1 and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-3, Iowa-3, Minnesota-2, Missouri-6, Nebraska-1, Ohio-4, and Wisconsin-4; #III - Connecticut-4, Delaware-1, Massachusetts-2, New Jersey-5, New York-6, and Pennsylvania-1; #IV - Kansas-2, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-6; #V - Florida-7, Georgia-1, Maryland-1, North Carolina-1, South Carolina-1 and Tennessee-2; #VI - Alberta-1, AVSC-1, New Brunswick-1, Nova Scotia-1, Quebec-1 and Ontario-4. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 4 or more awards within an area were: #I - Oksana-(6); #II - Aunt Georgia-(4), Buffalo Hunt-(4), Classic Rock-(4), Ness' Candy Pink-(5), Phantom Flash-(4), and Rob's Hallucination-(4); #III - Rob's Boondoggle (4), Rob's Fuddy Duddy (5), Rob's Sarsparilla-(4), and Windy Day-(4); #IV - Rob's Mad Cat-(4); #VI - Phobos-(4).

Question Box



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The spring shows will be in full swing when this appears. However, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a productive African violet New Year.

I am still trying to get as many of my new plantlets potted, groomed, and placed where they do best on the stands. I'm in hopes they will grow into nice sized plants, as they are already in 3" pots and about 9" across. Starting over (so-to-speak) has several hazards you are unaware of when you first begin to grow African violets. Now I want to select the very best plantlet any leaf produces in my environment, and this involves keeping a multitude of starter plants. My excuse for having 85 leaves, down when I was a beginning grower, was that I didn't know any better. Now, the 48 or so leaves I have put down are the result of just wanting to give a large number of plants that I was not able to grow during the past four years a try in my growing conditions. I'm fully aware you can never make up for four lost years, but the human condition is very unreasonable, and seeing all those goodies (new African violet hybrids) is very, very tempting. Any new grower, PLEASE don't follow in my footsteps, only grow a manageable number of leaves at any one time.

QUESTION: *I've noticed mildew occasionally on a few of my blossoms. I have a fan running most of the time. What does get rid of mildew? Can I spray my plants with Lysol Spray?*

ANSWER: On page 59 of the November/December 2002 magazine is a second article on Mildew, the first appeared in May/June, 1999 with a formula for spraying African violets for mildew. This is the recipe:

- 3 drops Safer's Soap
- 1/2 tsp. sulfur sublimed (available from drug stores)
- 2 cups hot water
- Mist plants - do not spray to runoff.

When I saw this recipe in the magazine in May 1999, I knew I had to try it on my Rex begonias. They are mildew magnets, very little helps, and even then, not for long. I could hardly believe my luck. It works, and the results are very lasting! I have the utmost confidence in recommending this



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treatment for African violets. I did use Palmolive dishwater soap in lieu of the Safari's Soap and had very good results - no residue - no damage. At our Judges Council meeting, this subject came up for discussion. One of our members is a chemist, and she explained the difference between the sulfur dust listed as a fungicide/insecticide, which I had used, and the sulfur sublimed in the recipe. She explained the sulfur sublimed would more readily produce a gas due to its much finer texture. My experience was I had little problem keeping the sulfur in suspension. I constantly shake my sprayer and would recommend the water be very hot (I heat mine in the microwave) and I don't store it, mainly because I use it all up with the begonias, since I'm doing a whole greenhouse. With such a small amount of sulfur being used, I see no reason not to start with fresh mix each time.

As to using Lysol, you can, but be sure you keep the spray well above the plants and let it fall as a fine mist on the plants. Personally, I prefer the sulfur due to its lasting benefits. (Ed. Note: Lysol Spray could be harmful to cats.)

QUESTION: *Could you please advise me on how best to pot my violets in 4" plastic pots with an attached saucer? I can't seem to get it right. Do I put broken pottery in the bottom or perlite? Is it better to use nothing but soil? How about a wick? Should I put one from the saucer to the soil through one of the drain holes, or should I just water from above? Does top watering pack the soil? Some of the plants get soggy, and others seem to dry out too fast.*

ANSWER: It sounds like you may have gotten your advice from several types of growers. Broken pottery works very well in clay pots with a wide variety of outdoors plants. The pottery acts as drainage as well as weighting the pot so it doesn't tip over, and the clay, being porous, keeps the roots well aerated. The problem is how often you must water this plant to keep it from drying out. In my area of the country, you would need to water several times a day.

All of my African violets get a nice bed of perlite in the bottom of the pot, as in essence, I use the "Texas" style of potting.

This allows me to water from the top or the bottom. The packing of the soil is a moot point, as most soilless mixes usually don't pack too much, and if you are re-potting, as often as is essential for good growth, it shouldn't be a factor. As to planting in 4" pots with attached saucers, I'm wondering why you would choose this particular arrangement. Perhaps you would find a source for the 4" pots and a separate saucer to use with it in your local area, but if you consult the advertisers in the back of this magazine, you will find they can supply exactly what you need. The pot you describe is quite a bit to handle since you must contend with the saucer at all times. The simpler the system, the less headaches for the grower. I do have a wick in each plant, as my soil mix is very light, and I use the wick to distribute the moisture evenly in the pot. Since I grow a fair mix of small, medium, and large plants, using reservoirs is not as easy as wicking all the plants. I bring the wick clear to the top of the pot before adding my mix, then circle it around over the mix to the other side, then cover the wick. All the plants have their own saucer, which allows the plant to be lifted free of the saucer when I'm grooming or washing the foliage at the sink. Perhaps if you were able to get all your plants into the same soil mix, one you know doesn't dry out too much or become soggy, then get on a regular watering schedule, the too - wet too dry syndrome would cease to be a problem.

The very best advice I can give you is no matter which method of growing you use, **BE CONSISTENT!** In other words, don't try to grow one African violet using one system and another using some other system. Get them all potted in a similar way, and you can treat them as a group. Not that all will use the same amount of water, but it will be close and you won't get frustrated trying to keep up with many plants, each with different demands.

QUESTION: *I need to repot a number of my plants and I want to know if I need to tickle the roots to loosen and remove old potting soil or would it be better not to disturb them at all?*

ANSWER: This can be a loaded question. Perhaps the person is talking about young plants that just need to be moved on, or it might be a person that dreads doing any major removal of stem stalk or leaves (let alone blossoms) and holds their breath while you are demonstrating re-potting - sure you are hurting the plant. New soil, removal of

long stem stalks, and dropping down into the pot are all vital to good growth. If the plants are going from the Solo cup to a 3" pot, use mold planting. Take a pot of the next size, and after adding your Perlite and wick, place a clean pot of the exact same size as the plantlet in the pot and fill in between the two pots with soil damp enough to hold its shape. Lift out the same size pot and drop the plant into the depression, which will be an exact fit. Now for the major surgery that seems to be the bane of some growers existence. Start by gently squeezing the pot about mid-way-up, repeating all around until you can feel the plant is loose in the pot. Slide roots and Perlite out onto your hand or a newspaper where you have room to work. A plant in good condition will have a ball of roots and many roots down into the Perlite. This is where I gently remove all Perlite possible, so I have a better view of the stem or stalk. I actually break off the stalk at about the point, which will give me a good foundation for the new plant and allow the plant to fit down into the new pot. When you are removing this portion of the stalk, you will see the amount is about equivalent to the growth the plant has produced in six months. If you are unable to break the stem stalk with your fingers, you can use a sharp knife, cutting at the point suggested. I like to leave the roots, which are attached to the upper part of the stem stalk, intact which is the reason I don't cut straight across the root ball. Next, I remove all the nubs or scars caused by leaf removal. I use the back of my sharp knife, which takes off the scar and doesn't remove the cambian layer. If the scars are left in place, there will be no growth of roots from that area. The whole point is to produce a good root system. After placing my wick, I add the layer of Perlite in the bottom. For a 5" pot, I put in about a 1 1/2" of Perlite. Remember I plant "Texas" style. When I finish filling around the plant with mix, I water in with 10 drops of Super thrive in a gallon watering can. The plant is then allowed to rest, not under the lights, for 48 hours. If I'm re-doing a badly neglected plant - especially if I removed all roots - the plant is enclosed in a plastic bag and put directly back under the lights. The plastic acts as a light filter and the light stimulates root growth. I leave the plant in its mini terrarium for about three weeks.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print



FUNGI

by Sue Gardner

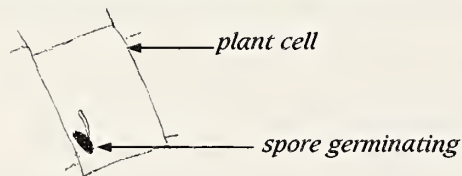
Fungi are organisms which, because they lack chlorophyll, must obtain food from other sources. The fungi which attach our plants are not the same type which produce mushrooms and toadstools, but they are similar in that they have a body of tiny web-like hairs called a mycelium which is often hidden inside the organism on which it is growing. In this case the only part we see is the fruiting body.



When the sac containing the spores dries, it splits causing spores to be sent flying over an area nearby. This helps spread the fungal infection.

Fungi are parasitic. To infect a plant, a spore which is microscopic in size must land and germinate on a plant surface. The relative size can be seen in the following diagram.

When the spore germinates, it sends hyphae (hair-like tis-



sue) into the plant through open stomata, root hairs, wounds, or weak cell surfaces. The mycelium grows first in the intercellular spaces, but it must penetrate cells for nourishment if it is to spread. When the hyphae penetrate the cells, they either absorb its contents for food or use digestive enzymes to convert cellulose to smaller, more useable molecules. Cellulose is a component of the cell wall. The fungus also produces toxins. So the plant is damaged in two ways - by destruction of cells and by toxic action.

It is interesting that certain fungi infect certain types of plants, and others apparently are resistant. Why?

1. Structural resistance.

If a plant has a thick cuticle and the fungal hyphae cannot penetrate, there is no fungal growth and no structural damage. Imagine a seed starting to germinate, but because it is lying on concrete, the roots cannot penetrate and it dies.

2. Chemical resistance.

Plants may contain chemicals, which provide resistance to fungi. One group of such chemicals are called saponins. These live in the cell vacuole, and when the fungus penetrates the cell, the saponins are activated and attack the fungus cells, killing them.

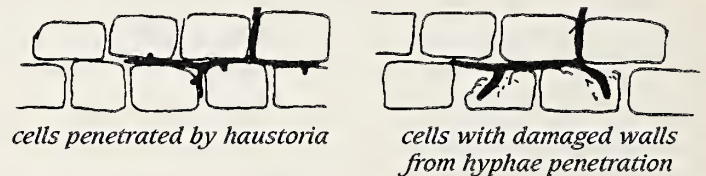
Another method of resistance is by chemical compounds which form in the plant in response to injury and which kill fungi. Different plants produce different types of chemicals. The speed of plant recognition of injury caused by fungal invasion is important.

3. Hypersensitivity.

Another defense is hypersensitivity to fungal infection, causing immediate death of plant tissue. This isolates the fungus in a ring of dead cells and prevents the fungus spreading.

Why does this not always work?

Some fungi are resistant to saponins (or similar compounds), or they can degrade them. Also, some fungi are very careful in the way they penetrate plant cells. They have tiny haustoria (small thin outgrowths from the hyphae) which invade the cell and absorb food without causing enough damage to cause release of chemical defenses.



How to protect plants from fungi.

Good cultural practices such as keeping shelves, pots, and tools clean will help stop fungal infection.

Good air circulation seems to help prevent spread.

If cold, increase temperature, which will also reduce humidity if high.

Removing insects such as fungus gnats prevents them spreading spores.

Removal of infected tissue prevents spores being spread further.

Use a fungicide to kill fungus.

Do not overwater.

Types of Fungi Which May Infect African Violets

Powdery mildew - an ascomycete, which attacks flowers and leaves.

Crown rot - Pythium or Phytophthora attack roots first.

Botrytis - invades injured area.

Sclerotinia - this forms a powdery crust on stems and crowns.

It is uncommon.

There are some fungi which we see growing on the surface of soil in pots. They are usually harmless to plants, as they feed on organic matter in the soil.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.

Creating Exciting New Hybrids

by Kyle Coleman

Creating exciting new hybrids is easy, right? There's nothing to it - a piece of cake. Well, if you believe that, you've never tried it.

I've read the articles, too. The process can sound pretty straight forward. First, select good breeding stock and pollinate them. Grow the seedpods, sow the seeds, and grow the plants. Select the best, and discard the rest. The process is relatively simple, but following it takes a lot of work, and there's no guarantee of finding even one violet worth keeping!

The odds are against you. Even my brief try at hybridizing would agree. Only six of my sixteen crosses produced seeds. Only five of my six seedpods germinated. Half the seedlings were single (dropping) bloomers in some shade of blue/purple. Further, only eleven of 309 were suitable to show. On top of that, of the eleven most attractive violets - two weren't really very distinctive or original; two weren't genetically stable; and two produced leaf cuttings that were very stingy with babies. This left only five keepers for a yield of about 1.5%.

I learned a lot about violet hybridizing from my seedlings. Selecting good breeding stock was crucial because traits that violet growers consider fatal flaws tend to be dominant - even when they are recessive (or hidden) traits for the parent. The kids seemed to pick up the parents' bad traits very easily, and I found it was unexpectedly difficult to produce a plant that didn't pick up at least one fatal flaw. In my opinion, the only truly fatal flaw was dropping single blooms, but a plant with variable growth or low bloom count doesn't impress me much either.

Many of the pointers that the pros have been recommending were very useful, and my experience agreed with these. If you want variegates, use variegated mother plants. Variegated crosses don't produce as many seedpods or as many seedlings per seedpod. If you want diversity, cross dissimilar plants. Conversely, if you want more predictability, cross similar plants. Other good traits for parent plants include good health, vigorous growth, no fatal flaws, well-shaping foliage, easy propagators, and no bad traits. (All those single dropping seedlings were very frustrating!) For color, size, fanciness, foliage, and floriferousness, it's best to select parent plants like the plants you want.

For me, the initial stage of hybridization took about thirteen to sixteen months. Seedpod formation took about four months, and luckily I made several crosses all at one time because less than half of them formed pods. Germination took about two weeks. Growing to first bloom took another six months. (Those babies stayed very small for a LONG

time.) I was glad that I devoted an entire four-shelf plant stand to try to make room for every last seedling - if I had thrown any away pre-maturely, I would have always wondered if I had thrown out any of the few precious keepers. Growing to maturity required another three to six months, depending on size - standard or miniature.

As the seedlings reached blooming size, I saved a lot of work by screening the plants and discarding inferior plants promptly. The AVSA new cultivar scale of points was a good guide. I was convinced from the beginning that there's no need for another variety with green foliage and purple dropping-single blossoms, so I was quick to cut my losses. I gave (or threw) the rejects away and moved on to the final stage of hybridizing.

Putting my potential new hybrids to the final test took about twelve to fifteen months. Growing the seedlings through three generations took about four to five months per generation, but it was a good test to see if I had really found some gems. I discarded the cultivars that didn't reproduce true or were difficult to propagate. I was heartbroken to give up on a couple of really pretty ones, but realistically, if they weren't stable or couldn't be reproduced, they weren't really all that great.

My five keepers came from two crosses. Four of them came from 'Optimara Trinidad' (a standard) crossed on 'Rose Splash' (a semi-miniature). From this cross, a few babies grew up to be standards, but most were semi-miniatures. The four best ones were semi-miniatures, but my best cultivar came from 'Optimara Trinidad' crossed on 'Funny Bunny' (another semi-mini). Like the other cross, some of the kids grew up to be standards, but most of the kids were semi-miniatures. (The best of this cross was a miniature.) My variegated crosses produced only one seedpod, thirteen seedlings, and NO keepers. Since all of my keepers came from just two of the five viable seedpods, I could have easily had no keepers if I had planted only some of the seedpods and had chosen the wrong ones!

Talk about a lot of time and energy! If I'd known what I was getting into at the time, I don't know whether I'd have done it. On the good side, I do have five good varieties to show for my 309 seedling effort. It's also kind of fun when someone asks, "Who's the hybridizer?," and I say, "I am."

I get a private chuckle when someone asks, "Is that growing according to the hybridizer's description?" My best feeling of hybridizing accomplishment so far has been seeing other people enter my plants in shows.

From "*Blossoms*", publication of the Seattle AVS

A Family Portrait



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Petrocosmea forrestii

This darling plant grows and blooms profusely in a 2 1/2 inch pot. *Petrocosmea forrestii* (pet-roh-KAHS-mee-ah) was purchased from Paul Sorano at the last convention. None of my petrocoseas have ever had this many blooms. The flowers are very small and charming, with lavender petals, a bright yellow center, and prominent stigma. This illustration was done weeks ago, and the plant now has fourteen blooms and ten buds. This heavy bloom happened in the coolness of fall with the plant growing on the lowest shelf of my light garden. It was probably getting about 500 foot candles of light. It produces only one bloom per stem but sends up two to three stems per axil. As they age, the stems seem to curve and elongate, which adds to the whimsical charm of this itty bitty beauty.

It was grown rather dry and given two waterings of Jerry's Grow bloom booster fertilizer. This plant is a "must-have" because it takes up so little space. You may see it listed as *Petrocosmea duclouxii*, its former name.

VELUNTINA LITE

This tiny plant was the best plant in our exhibit. Cyndi Boesse grew it in natural light. The bloom color was extraordinary, so vivid and bright. The more I grow this plant, the more I love it. I have always imagined the extinct *Saintpaulia pusilla* to resemble this. Having grown at least two dozen of them over the last three years, I know it is very

stable and almost never reverts to a full-sized *Saintpaulia veluntina*. Faye Wagman provided the first plant I grew, and it produces many plantlets from one little leaf. Betty Tapping had given her the plant. Faye tells me that once in a while, a plant will tend to elongate in growth, but the leaves stay tiny and the growth just gets taller instead of staying compact.

Judges tell me that it can't be Best Miniature in a show.

It is not listed in the handbook, so is not considered to be any different than a regular

veluntina, even though

it is different and one-third

the size. I would like to

know how this plant

grows for you. My e-mail

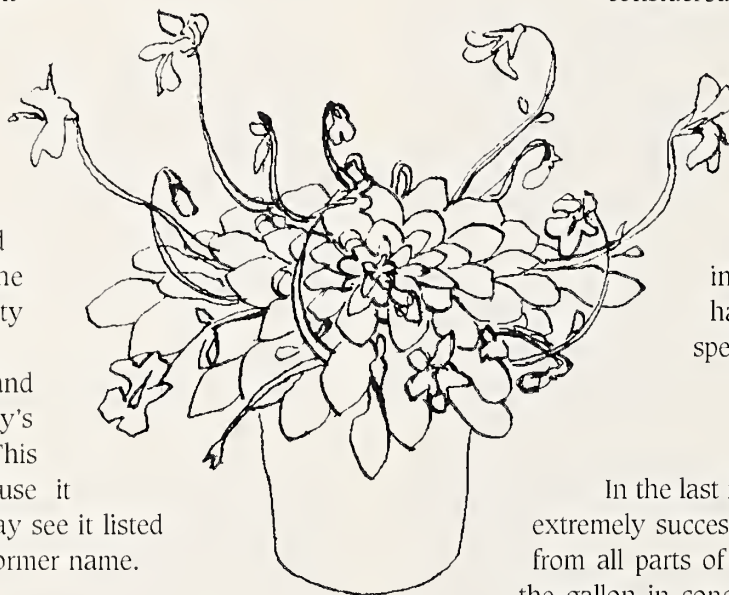
is georgena@bellatlantic.net

if you would like to share

information about the growth

habit. Compared to many of the

species, it is very easy to grow.



JERRY'S GROW

In the last few years, this fertilizer has been extremely successful for orchid and rose growers from all parts of the country. It is distributed by the gallon in concentrate form for regular growth and for bloom booster. This summer my *Achimenes*, *Nematanthus*, and kohlarias outside were watered with this, and I must admit that I have never had better bloom or better rhizome production. We did have more sunshine than usual though. This is a very powerful fertilizer, and I must recommend using a very diluted mixture on African violets and other gesneriads. *Streptocarpus* must be watered prior to this fertilizer application. If you want information on this

popular product, contact Wunder Works, 492 Sapena Ct., Santa Clara, CA 95054 or www.wundergrow.com. The formulas are 1.5-0.5-0.5 for flowering and 3-1-1 for foliage. I know these do not sound powerful, but they are. Nitrogen sources are both ammoniacle and nitrate.

CHILE MOSS

Have you seen the new moss from Chile that is sold in the one-cubic foot bag? The fibers are even larger than the New Zealand moss. It seems to be great when used as a "mulch" in my container gardens and terrariums. It seems to last a long time, too. It holds a great deal of moisture. I have

hundreds of the smallest spiders ever seen on an orchid mulched with this. I am not positive they came with the moss. So, a word to the wise would tell us to soak this in boiling water containing a few drops of detergent. Wash it with cool water before using.

VIRUS

Rose rosette disease has devastated several roses in my garden. I contacted an expert, and she tells me that it cannot be transferred to either orchids or gesneriads. They also think the mite suspected of being the vector will not invade either family.



PROPAGATION OF TRAILING GESNERIADS

by Leonie Chirgwin

Part of the gesneriad plant family are fibrous rooted trailing plants. Here, in Australia, the genera from the groups which are most usually grown are varieties and hybrids of *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnnea*, *Codonanthe*, *Nematanthus*, and *Streptocarpella*. There are also some inter-generic crossed plants which hybridizers have produced, like *Codonatanthus*. Propagation of these plants is usually done using cuttings.

There are three methods of doing this: requirements include a 2 1/2" pot filled with African violet potting mix, some rooting hormone, your thumbnail, and one or more cuttings. Label the pot, being careful of the spelling. Fill the pot with mix. Then take one or more cuttings, about 4" or 5" long, making sure you know which is the tip end and which is the end closest to the roots. Cuttings do not have to be taken from the very end of a trail - a long trail may be cut into segments. An idea to help identify which end is which is to strip a few leaves from the base end as soon as you cut the trail into segments. Scrape about 1 1/2" of the cutting free of leaves and the outer skin with your thumbnail. Dip this raw section into your chosen rooting hormone. With the powder or gel, you can put the cutting into the labeled pot immediately. With the liquid hormone, the instructions say to lay the cutting to one side for approximately one hour, until the liquid dries.

Purists will plant only one cutting per pot, and from then

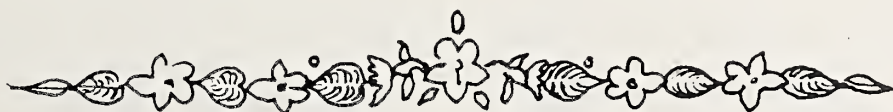
on will routinely pinch out all growing tip leaves, forcing that one cutting to continually branch out again and again. Eventually, a full basket of trails is grown.

Another method is to treat the cuttings the same way, but plant 4-6 all together in a bunch in the center of your pot. Again, pinch out the growing tips, and a bushy basket of trails will be produced. The difference is that the trails will not hang down as tidily as the basket grown from a single cutting.

Another method is to plant five or six single cuttings in individual pots. When the cuttings put down by these three methods are rooted well, (test by slipping the plant and potting mix out of the pot and look for healthy roots out to the edge of the mix) they are ready to be moved into a 6" hanging basket. The first two methods are planted in the center of the basket and the growing trails spread evenly around. The third method is to plant these five rooted cuttings separately in the basket in "clock" positions, i.e. in the center and the others at 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00, around the edge of the basket.

I believe that Method One is the best, Method Two is okay, but not as good as Method One, and Method Three will produce a full basket, but not of show quality.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group,
Australia and New Zealand





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The Neck Doctor

For years we have maintained an ICU (Intensive Care Unit) in a separate room for the ailing violets of our customers. The most common problem we see is a long neck between the lowest leaves and the soil. We send violets into surgery, prescribe the appropriate treatment, and then give them quiet rest until they come back into bloom. We refuse a few patients because of insects, and we do lose some occasionally, but usually these violets pull through and look completely rejuvenated by the time they go home.

No matter what any grower does, necks will happen. This is because all violets continue to lose lower leaves as new leaves form in the center crown. Perfect conditions may cause leaves to last longer, but no violet leaf will last forever. In most cases, a violet leaf will not live more than two years from the time it formed in the crown to when it was the oldest leaf on the violet. Once it falls off, it exposes a little bit of the center stalk, eventually becoming a neck.

Necks need to be buried so that new roots can form to support the plant. For standard size violets grown in windows, repotting may need to be done every six months or so. Plants grown under fluorescent lights tend to grow more compactly, and may need repotting only once a year. Miniature and semi-miniature violets need this treatment two or three times a year, even under the best of conditions. Repotting should be done routinely.

First, have the right potting mix ready

Good violet potting soil needs to be very porous; it needs to hold water well; it needs to maintain a balanced pH of approximately 6.8. Growers vary in their potting mix recipe, but in the United States, the basic mix is often composed of one part of Canadian milled sphagnum peat moss, one part coarse

vermiculite, and one part coarse perlite.

The peat should be brown (not black) and should have a fresh texture that does not smear when rubbed between fingers, which happens with badly decomposed and inferior peat. As peat decays, it becomes more acidic and tends to compress together. Look for the words "product of Canada" on the label in order to find the high quality Canadian peat that growers have learned to trust.

The vermiculite absorbs moisture well, so that air can circulate between the particles of soil even when it is wet. Coarser bits allow more air to circulate. Finding coarse vermiculite has become more difficult, but even the finer grade provides moisture retention.

The perlite provides a chunky texture that keeps the soil from becoming too compacted. The larger and coarser it is, the better. Think about how much more air is in a bucket of rocks than in a bucket of sand. Although it does contribute some fluoride, perlite is fairly neutral in that it will generally not affect pH.

If you can't buy good premixed violet potting soil from a violet club or vendor (check the advertisers in this magazine), then you should mix your own. Products labeled as "African Violet Potting Soil" and sold in garden centers rarely meet our standards and should usually be avoided.

Finally, moisten the potting mix by adding warmish water. Stir the mix to spread the moisture evenly, adding more water until the soil begins to stick together in small clumps. Premoistened soil is especially beneficial for repotting. Excessively dry soil can pull moisture from the roots of the plants you will be repotting, causing additional shock to the plant. This will also eliminate dust as you repot.

So how long is that neck?

The neck is just barely visible... it just needs First Aid

A neck that is scarcely visible is the easiest one to deal with, especially if the plant is allowed to get slightly dry before so that leaves are more flexible and less prone to break.

Blooming plants with this minimal neck can be repotted without removing flowers. The flowers may fade after repotting, but it won't be a big problem. It is a good idea to remove any leaves that look like they are starting to age. You will be a little bit ahead of the problem.

All the grower needs to do is lift the plant out of its pot, slice off a small amount from the bottom of the root ball, and set it back into the same pot. The task is finished by adding enough potting mix to the top of the pot to hide the neck. Don't be tempted to pack the soil down since this removes air and tends to lead to problems. The amount that is sliced away should be equal to the amount of exposed neck. If it is a half an inch or less, the violet will show no ill effects and can go right back into its usual location after watering. New roots will grow quickly from the newly buried part of the stalk to replace those that were cut away.

The neck is one or two inches long... it needs Outpatient Surgery

Once the neck is obvious, but not out of control, you need to use a little more effort. If you have put off the job for this long, there is a good chance that a few more leaves are fading but haven't quite died. This is the perfect time to remove them so that repotting won't be necessary again so soon. Remove any leaves that have faded green color, that are smaller than the row of leaves above them in the crown, or that have been damaged and are unsightly. Remove any suckers or sideshoots that have developed between the leaves, and also look for the tiny beginnings of new suckers that need to be poked out. It is also wise to remove all of the flowers so that the plant can concentrate its energy on growing new roots. Again, this task is easiest if the plant is slightly dry so that you break off only the leaves that you are intending to remove.

When necks are allowed to grow to one or two inches, some dried brown crust will often appear on the exposed neck. This crust is the scabbing left by leaves that have been removed. It is fairly dense, and will tend to prevent new roots from growing. It needs to be scraped away gently. Use the dull side of a knife or similar object and skin away just the dried surface cells to expose the fresh green tissue below. Because bacteria can enter the plant through open injuries, especially when in contact with damp soil, it is wise to allow the plant to sit for a while so that the surface of the neck dries and forms a protective seal.

Once the plant is ready, lift it out of the pot, slice away one to two inches (to equal the length of the exposed neck) from the bottom of the root ball, and set it back into the same pot. The bottom row of leaves should be even with or slightly below the rim of the pot. Fill in with fresh potting mix and, again, avoid packing or pressing. Water the plant thoroughly and discard the excess water.

If your growing area is kept in the temperature range of 70

to 80 degrees and is somewhat humid, you can probably put your repotted violet back in its usual location. If it is cooler, it might be helpful to make a tent of clear plastic over the plant for a week or so. With a significant part of its roots having been cut off, the plant is unable to draw up as much moisture as it had. The tent will keep it from losing moisture and keep it a bit warmer.

The neck is really long... this requires Radical Surgery!

The longest neck we've ever seen was nearly two feet long! That required a number of years of procrastination! If you have put the task off for several years, the neck is likely to be longer than three or four inches. Once it has gone to that length or beyond, it requires radical surgery with post-surgical intensive care. This sounds terribly intimidating, but even an inexperienced "surgeon" should have a very high success rate using this method.

Begin first by removing lower leaves that are smaller than those in the rows above and any that have any suggestion of aging. This would include leaves that are slightly less green than the center leaves, leaves that are nicked or dusty, and leaves that have long stems (petioles). Also remove any secondary crowns (suckers) that have formed between leaves. Finally, eliminate all blossom stems, including tiny buds that are forming. In most cases, there should be somewhere between six and twenty leaves remaining.

Next, gently scrape the section of the neck that is just below the bottom row of leaves. There may be some brown crust to remove, but you also need to eliminate the stubs of the leaves that were just taken off. This scraping helps prevent future suckers and allows roots to develop more quickly. Be gentle! Scraping should just occur along the surface cells and not dig deeper into the neck tissue.

This next step frightens novices the most. Amputation. Be brave! Cut off the top part of the plant, leaving a stalk under the leaves that is about one to two inches long. Discard the lower portion of the plant. Allow some time for the surface of the stalk on the top portion to dry before proceeding.

While you are waiting, examine the cross section of the stalk. A healthy stalk should have a light green color with a nearly full circle of tiny purple dots around the very center. It should be firm all the way through with no darkened or pithy center that would indicate interior rot. The outside sclera or skin cells should be firmly attached to the center core of the stalk. A slipping skin would be another indication of fungal rot. If either of the rot indicators are present, try cutting a little higher (a half an inch at a time) on the stalk, removing leaves if necessary to get above the rot line. When a point is reached where there is no indication of rot, disinfect your knife with bleach and take one more very shallow slice from the bottom; this removes any rot contamination that may have occurred from previous cuts.

Next, prepare a clean pot. Choose one that is about one-half to one-third of the foliage diameter and quite shallow. Fill the pot to the top rim with violet potting mix. While it is always important to use the right mix and avoid packing, it

is critical when doing radical surgery. African violet roots are very delicate, and any impediment to their growth will affect the health of the entire plant. A repotted, rootless crown needs to produce roots very quickly if it is to survive, so leave as much air space as possible in the soil medium for the fine hair-like sprouts to grow.

Set the stalk of the crown into the very center of the pot. If the plant developed a leaning posture as the neck grew too long, there may be a crook in the stalk so that the leaves do not make a perfect "T" with the stem below. In this case, set the stalk straight into the pot with the leaves at an odd angle. The plant will correct its above-ground position to a more level attitude in a fairly short time. The alternative of repotting so that the leaves are level and the stalk is angled in the soil seems to cause the plant to develop poor symmetry as time passes.

Water the plant until water runs out the drainage holes. This might cause the potting mix to sink down into the pot. You may add a little extra mix to the top of the pot so that the stalk is in good contact with the soil. Drain off the excess moisture.

You must provide very high humidity (60% or higher) during the rerooting period. With no roots to pull moisture from the soil, the violet will quickly dry out. The way to prevent this is by increasing the humidity so that the plant does not give off water into the atmosphere. Unless you grow in an area with oppressively high natural humidity, you will need to place your violet inside a clear container, such as a plastic bag or box. The container should be large enough for the plant to stand without touching the sides too much, but not so large that the humidity is too dispersed. In most cases, the soil moisture will add enough humidity to the air to reach a good balance. As a guideline, the humidity is about right when the inside of the container has some evidence of condensed moisture clinging to the sides. When this is true, there will be no need to give the plant additional water. This container needs to be sealed tightly closed for the entire time the plant is rerooting. If using a plastic bag, inflate it by blowing before sealing it.

This container should be placed in a bright location but not in direct sunlight. Sunlight could cause the temperature inside to rise excessively, doing damage to your violet. The temperature inside the container will tend to be about 5 degrees warmer than the air in the growing room. The optimum rooting temperature is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit (23 degrees Celcius). If your normal air temperature is 72

degrees, you need not worry. If it is cooler, you may wish to find a higher shelf in the room (where it is warmer) or another slightly warmer location. Similarly, if air temperature is normally warmer, try placing the container near the floor or in a cooler location.

New roots begin forming very quickly. Often there will be adequate roots in one month's time to support the plant. This is often accompanied by the appearance of new leaves in the center of the crown and flowering. Both are good indications that the plant is thriving.

The plant may then be removed from the sealed container. Do so gradually! The roots have not had to pull water during the time they spent in the high humidity. Lowering the humidity gradually by opening the container a little at a time over a day or two will ease the roots into their new job. Failure to do this gradually can result in sudden wilting. Violets will recover, but this stress is avoidable.

After the transition period, your violet can be placed back in its usual location. It should soon be back in bloom and vigorous.

Avoiding the problem of necks

There is nothing that can be done to eliminate the development of a neck completely, but it is possible to slow the progression.

When violets receive truly bright light for twelve hours a day, the space between the leaf nodes narrows so that leaves are forming their stems in the tightest possible position. If you can see any space in between the leaves, at the spot where they join the main stalk, it might be wise to move your violet into a brighter location.

Temperature controls the rate of cell division to a great extent. When the temperature is cool, below 70 degrees Fahrenheit, violets grow quite slowly and compactly. If temperatures are regularly above 80 degrees, violets grow much more rapidly and can develop a spindly, lanky appearance. Maintaining temperatures in the low 70's can help reduce the frequent need to repot.

Start your own surgical unit

This is one surgery that doesn't require years of education. Try the recommended procedure, and you will soon be a talented African violet doctor. Your violets will love you and reward you with beautiful growth. You might even find that you have to open an ICU of your own for your friends' plants!





Janice Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
jbruns@attbi.com

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00, unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Nelly Levine – Arvada, CO

***Bella Donna** (9145) 11/18/02 (N. Levine) Single-semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/dark purple edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Orchid Surprise** (9146) 11/18/02 (N. Levine) Single

orchid sticktite star/fuchsia eye, fantasy. Dark green, ovate, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Susan Shaw – Loveland, CO

***Susan's Sweetheart** (9147) 11/27/02 (S. Shaw) Single-semidouble dark burgundy ruffled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Nelly Levine – Arvada, CO

* Kaela * Kaitlyn * Kellee * Kool Kona *

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from October 1, 2002 - November 30, 2002

The Classic City AVS, Athens, GA \$400.00	Lone Star AVC, San Marcos, TX. \$20.00
<i>This donation to BERF is because our club has disbanded</i>	<i>In memory of J. C. Munk, hybridizer and friend</i>
Mary Lou Hopperstad, Richfield, MN 25.00	North Star AV Council, Minneapolis, MN 50.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness</i>	<i>In memory of Don Ness, a great hybridizer</i>
Anne F. Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA 25.00	Wisconsin Council of AVSA, Milwaukee, WI 25.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness of Midland African Violets, hybridizer of many beautiful cultivars in our violet world</i>	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA. 50.00
Ellen S. Frilseth, Roseville, MN 10.00	<i>In memory of our long time member and friend, Laura Shannon</i>
<i>In memory of Don Ness</i>	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA. 25.00
MKO DYN-O-MITE AVS, Joplin, MO 25.00	<i>In memory of Anna Seiler, a dear member for many years</i>
<i>In memory of Holly Marie Smith</i>	Dale K. Jasaitis, Beverly Hills, FL. 20.00
Inner City AV Club, St. Louis, MO 10.00	<i>Given in memory of Laura Shannon, the most knowledgeable and generous gesneriad lover I have ever met</i>
Walter Chipka, Opa Locka, FL 10.00	Maury and Jackie Jones, Durant, IA 50.00
Penny L. Smith-Kerker, Austin, TX 20.00	Martha Hart, Rochester, NY. 10.00
Carla Yambert, Murray, KY 5.00	Leslee J. Newman, Yorba Linda, CA 5.00
Dolores Harrington, Fridley, MN 10.00	Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, NJ 5.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness</i>	Julie K. Gibson, Phoenix, AZ 25.00
Conrad N. Nelson, Minneapolis, MN 2.00	George R. Stewart, University City, TX. 5.00
Bergen County AVS, Bergen County, NJ 25.00	Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO 25.00
<i>In memory of Laura Shannon, Frank Tinari, and Don Ness three long time members of AVSA who will be missed by us all</i>	<i>In memory of Frank Tinari and Bill Lyons</i>
Sharone E. Johnson, Lino Lakes, MN. 20.00	Evelyn E. Stein, Tracy, CA. 25.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness</i>	Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL. 5.00
Susan B. Hoffmann, Virginia Beach, VA 25.00	Mark C. Bander, Dewitt, MI. 50.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness a great pillar in AVSA</i>	Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK 10.00
Tristate AV Council, Lafayette, NJ 10.00	John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA 5.00
<i>In lieu of judges expenses for Lee Borey and Lee Gugliada</i>	Janeen Dougherty, Morristown, NJ 10.00

So, How Far Can You Go?

by John Beaulieu

Or rather how far can they go (rhizomes) before you pot them up. Rhizomes of *Achimenes* and eucodonias stored over the winter in zip-lock baggies will eventually start to sprout in the spring, especially if the clear bags are exposed to light.

Many hobbyists that harvest rhizomes from the original pots when a plant goes dormant will store them in ziplock bags. The rhizomes are placed in the bag with some slightly damp sphagnum moss or vermiculite. Storing rhizomes was covered in Volume Three, Number Two (Spring issue 2001). Back in that issue, I showed a photo of a bag of rhizomes that had gone far too long, and little plants were forming inside the bag! The preferred time to repot these rhizomes is when they just start to sprout.

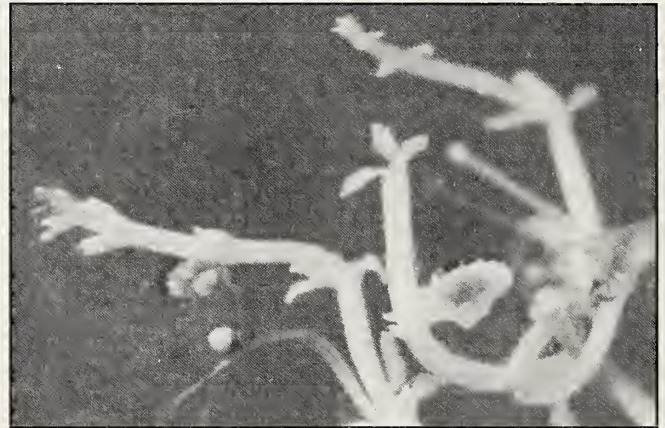
Well, this past year I outdid myself in leaving them faaaaaar too long! I had little plants last year because the bags were exposed to light in my plant room. This time I stored the bags in a dark box. They still eventually sprouted, and you can see in the top photo that the bags were filled with strings of white rhizomes. I don't know when they started sprouting, but I do know that it was getting into August before I had time to look at them! The long sprouts were getting stressed themselves and were starting to produce new scaly rhizomes which can be seen in the second photo to the right.

I wasn't sure what would be the best way to deal with these long, stringy shoots. Since time was still at a premium, I just spread each tangled mess on a half filled hanging pot of potting mix. I then covered the shoots and rhizomes with more mix (see photo to the right) and kept the pot watered. I'm not sure if the shoots continued to grow or if it was the new rhizomes that sprouted, but by September there were new green sprouts showing up in the pots.

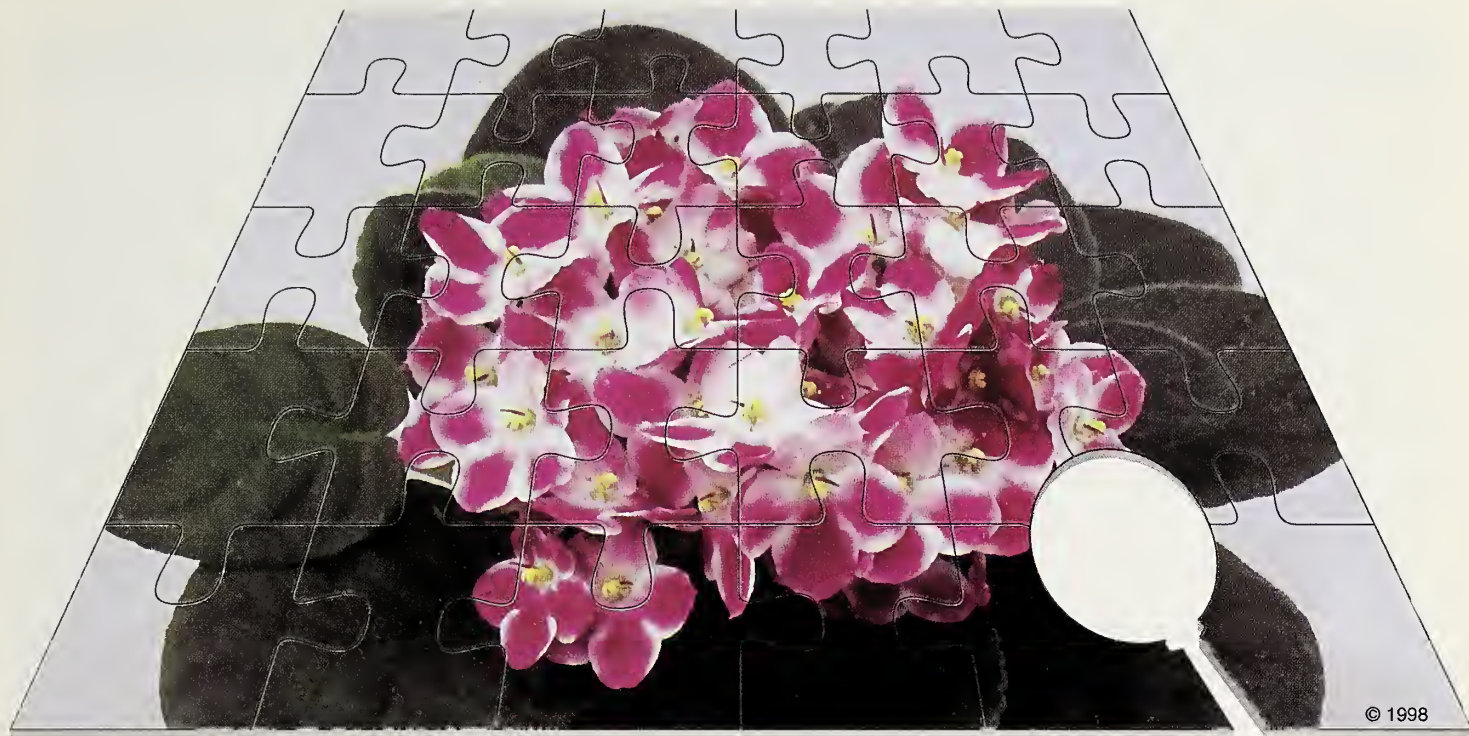
Of course, in a normal year the baskets of *Achimenes* are starting to wind down during September. Mine are really just starting to grow at this time. Our weather wasn't normal this year either, and warm summer temperatures lasted right through September, giving my plants a good chance to keep growing. By October they were starting to flower as seen to the right. The cool weather finally did come, and my plants have moved indoors and continue to bloom. I have really thrown them out of wack for timing this year, but would imagine that once they do peak and go dormant, the rhizomes will still tend to sprout at the normal time next spring.

Hopefully, next spring there will be no mud slides coming through my yard, as happened this year, and I will be able to get the rhizomes potted up in a more timely fashion.

Perhaps I should consider the other option of dealing with rhizomes, and that is to do nothing. Leave them in their pots and stop watering until early spring. Then resume normal watering and hope they show up!



From *African Violet and Gesneriad News*



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Soil Mixes for Your Watering System From the Illinois AVS, Inc.

Is it okay to use packaged African violet soil mix? New growers may wonder what all this talk about different mixes is about. The companies did a lot of research to develop various mixes, and it is perfectly fine to use them just as they come. Thousands of growers do so with good results. But consider the subject of watering. Since each watering method has its own idiosyncrasies, four of Illinois AVS's best growers share their method of watering and the soil mix they have created to meet their needs.

Jan Bruns grew the best miniatures any of us have ever seen and was by far the champion winner for miniatures at every convention and African violet show she entered. Jan watered from the top, so this soil would be too heavy for wick watering. Here is her recipe for miniatures:

- 4 parts Hypoflex Professional potting soil
- 1 part vermiculite
- 1 part perlite
- 1 part Sakrete Playground Sand

The soil is pasteurized, (put in 200° oven for 1 hour, then turn off oven and leave in overnight) and then mixed with the other ingredients.

Morgan Simmons grows beautiful plants of all sizes and has been the winner of numerous blue ribbons for collections, large plants, small plants, and has taken the blue ribbon for his species for years now. He waters Texas-style. Here is his recipe for success:

Morgan pots Texas-style. Burn holes about 3/4 inches apart around the bottom of the plastic pot and about 3/4 inches from the bottom. Fill the bottom of the pot, just past the holes, with perlite before potting. Water from the bottom with a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20. Occasionally drench with warm distilled water.

- 3 gallons of peat
- 2 gallons of perlite
- 1 gallon of vermiculite
- 1 pound package of Super Soil Substance

Combine all in a large plastic bag, mixing thoroughly, and add 1 to 1 1/2 gallons of hot water. Let "cure" for at least two days before using.

Steve Covolo grows outstanding plants. He is a constant winner at every show or convention he enters. His watering method is Texas-style "Modified", meaning he still has holes

in the sides of his pots, but he wick waters. He orders soilless mix from an African Violet vendor.

- 1 part soilless mix
- 2 parts perlite
- Horticulture charcoal for drainage

Anna Jean Landgren has been winning blue ribbons for many years. She has grown every kind of violet, plus many other gesneriads. Her trailers and miniatures have won blues at every show I have attended. Anna Jean wicks her plants and uses the mat watering system. Here is her recipe:

Using a coffee can she mixes:

- 3 parts of a soilless mix
 - 1 part vermiculite
 - 1 part perlite
 - 1/2 - 3/4 cup charcoal
 - 3 Tbls bone meal
 - 3 tsp dolomite lime
- Mix all together and dampen with hot water.

Harold Appleton has always grown beautiful, very large violets. He wins blue ribbons in every show he enters. He has tried different soils and different ways of watering. The soil recipe he is using now is an old one from way back. He reports, "This seems to be working fine for me. The plants look the best that they have in years after watering all ways - top, bottom, Texas, etc." Here is his recipe:

- Three large coffee cans full of peat moss
- 1/2 can of charcoal
- One and 1/2 cans vermiculite
- 3 cans of perlite (extra perlite to make it lighter)
- About 2 ounces dolomite lime
- At present using a fertilizer called master blend 15-16-17, used 1/4 tsp to a gallon of water and 4 drops of Super Thrive®.

Remember, if you want to experiment with any of these different soil mixes, try it on only a few plants. Don't repot everything until you know how a new mix will work in **your** growing conditions. Good growing!!

From "African Violet Leaves"



PLANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants 1995 will be the authority for accepting names and registrations for saintpaulias. The African Violet Society of America, Inc. is the authorized agent for registration of saintpaulias.

The registration forms are printed on special archival, acid-free paper. Please do not reproduce on plain copy paper.

Reservation of Names

(May not be more than three words):

Reserving a name should be done when your seedling first blooms. Many times a hybridizer names a new cultivar, releases it, and may wait two years before deciding to register the seedling, only to find the name is not available or is not acceptable according to the code. Name reservations are good for a two-year period. In order to reserve a name, send the name and \$1.00 to the REGISTRATION COMMITTEE. It is not necessary to use a registration form to reserve a name. A letter giving the committee the name is sufficient.

The name will be checked for availability and to make sure it is in compliance with the rules of The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. If the name is accepted, it will be placed in the reserved file with your name and the date it was received. This name reservation is good for a two-year period from the date received. If your reservation is about to expire and you are not ready to register your plant, you may request an extension by paying \$1.00 for one more two-year period.

Registering A Cultivar - Fee Is \$5.00

You may subtract the \$1.00 paid for the name reservation if you have previously reserved the name and the reservation period has not lapsed.

Upon receiving the application for registration, read through it and fill in all the areas pertaining to your cultivar. **Type or print in black ink. PLEASE DO NOT USE PENCIL**, as these are permanent records. Do **not** fill in registration number, date received, and date published; these will be filled in by the REGISTRAR. All names will be checked by the committee for compliance and availability.

1. If you have made the cross for this new cultivar, you are the hybridizer. Applicants need written permission from the hybridizer to register any cultivar for which they have not made the crosses.
2. Remember, in order to register a cultivar, you need to take it through three or more generations. Your new cultivar should reproduce true at least 95% of the time.
3. **Cultivars from seeds for which the parentage is unknown may not be registered.**
4. Registration will be made in the name of the hybridizer, not a business. The business did not hybridize this plant; you, as an individual, did.
5. Give a complete blossom and foliage description. Do not give a flowery, exaggerated description. Keep it short and concise but complete.
6. Plants or leaves of your plants must be available to the general public, either by gift or by sale, if you wish to register this plant.

7. Date and sign the application, and be sure to include your check or money order, made payable in U.S. funds to AVSA. **DO NOT SEND CASH. The application should be signed with your full name, not initials and not the name of a business.**
8. If a person's name is being used as a cultivar name, a letter of permission from that person (or heirs) must accompany the name reservation or registration application. Written permission is also necessary before using the name of any famous person, copyright or trademark organization (e.g. musical group, youth organization, charity, cartoon character, etc.).
9. **Registrations Do Not Become Valid Until Published In The AVM.**

The publication deadline for this committee is **three months before publication of each AVM** (Dec. 1 for March AVM, etc.) Registrations must be received by the 15th of the month to give us time to process your reservation or registration. Any name reservations or registrations not received by the deadlines will be held until the next publication date.

Are Your Plants Worthy of Registration?

Registration requires that a plant must be tested through **at least** three generations to prove it is worthy to be registered. What is meant by 'worthy'? When propagating, does it come true to the mother plant? If there is a question in your mind as to the stability of your variety, and if it does not reproduce true at least 95% of the time, please **do not** register it. A cultivar that does not remain true to its description causes confusion and annoyance for all concerned. Is there a significant difference or improvement over any cultivar already on the market or registered? Please be sure that it is. With this in mind, be discriminating in your selection of the varieties you choose to register. Too often one cannot tell one plant from another.

**Effective January 1, 1989,
parentage is required on all registrations**

Cultivar Names to be Avoided

- Names likely to be confused with already existing registered cultivars or those closely related (i.e., RASPBERRY FIZZ is a registered cultivar. RAZZBERRY FIZZ is unacceptable. If BETTY is registered, BETTE is not acceptable.)
- Excessively long names or phrases (the name may consist of no more than three words and have a limit of 10 syllables and 30 characters or spaces overall).
- Any name that overstates the merits of a cultivar (i.e., Improved, Better, Greater, etc.). These may become inaccurate with new released varieties.

It is within the authority of the registration committee to request the following:

- a) Testing dates
- b) An illustration or photo with description
- c) Parentage

Showcase

Honeysuckle Rose

Exhibited by: Paul Kroll

Hybridized by: Munk/Dattalo

Standard Trailer



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Humpty Doo

Exhibited by: Linda Neumann

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature Trailer



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Boolaroo

Best Trailer

2002 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman***

*Hybridized by: **R. Robinson***

Semiminiature Trailer



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
 2855 Gayle Lane
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674
 email: hjabar@earthlink.net

Some people think it's a very depressing subject. NOT SO! As things age they become antiques, thus worth more. The older and harder something is to find, the more precious it becomes.

I personally like old things. For instance, I am married to a old man. I think I've mentioned him before. I wonder what his worth is? He does vacuum and dust though. Maybe more than I realize; guess I'll keep him. He doesn't need water, and has never been re-potted. Like I said, I'll keep him.

Just like plants, some are easy to grow and some the other

way around. Add some age to that, and you have my passion, the older plants. If Vintage Violets can help you be reunited with an old timer let me know. (I seem to have many old timers around here including an ole' man).

This issue of "AVSA Most Wanted" is the entire list of "Wanted" plants. Please pay close attention to it. Purple Crest showed up after six years on the "Wanted" list. Who knows what will turn up next? If Bob Moselle and Chris Mason read my article, please get in touch with me. I've lost contact with you.

OLD AGE

AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets Our Members Are Seeking

Ace of Cedar Rapids	Baby Blue	Blue Morning Glory	Caravan Emerald Ripple	Constance Hansen Supreme	Deborah's Oh My
Adele	Baby Girl Spoon	Blue Nymph (Standard)	Caravan Masterpiece	Copy Cat	Deep Sea Treasure
Adeline Krogman	Baby Helen	Blue Parade	Caravan Pageant	Coral Cascade	Deleon Pixie
Admiral Amazon	Baby Pink	Blue Peak	Carousel Lady	Coral Cove	Deleon Posie
Aglitter	Baby's Lace	Blue Reverie	Care Deeply	Coral Radiance	Desiree
Albert The Second	Bagdad	Blue Rosette	Caribbean	Coral Reef	Diane Lisa Dimambro
Ablaze	Baker's Hot Lips	Blue Skies	Carnival Queen	Coral Satin	Diana Ross
Albino Blue Eyes	Ballet Carla	Blue Smoke	Carlion	Coral Tips	Dib's Thrill
Aliane	Ballet Eva	Blue Warrior	Casu Small	Cordarama	Dingbat
Alice Blue Gown	Ballet Grace	Blue Wren	Catherine	Cordelia	Dippity Do
Alice Marie	Ballet Helga	Bobby	Cat's Meow	Cornucopia	Disco Babe
Alice's Cochise	Ballet Inga	Bonnie Lassy	Celestial Butterfly	Cotton Bowl	Dominion Rose
Alice's White Xmas	Ballet Meta	Boyce Edens	Cecile Ambler	Cranberry Ice	Donna Lee
Amazon Pink Delite	Bambino (Richter's)	Brilliant Lady	Cerise	Creekside Moonbeams	Donna Lynn
Amazon Pink Luster	Bashful Beauty	Bryte Angel	Chapel Boy	Crested Jewel	Dorothy Gray
America	Bavaria	Bryte Bells	Cherokee Fire	Crimson Glo	Do's Jean
American	Becky's Gypsy Trail	Bryte Glitter	Cherokee Rose	Crimsonny	Double Cherry Soda
Amethyst Sparks	Bee Lee Tee	Bryte Tips	Cherubini	Crown of Jewels	Double Dutchess
Anafair	Belle's Spring Song	Bryte Sensation	Chicapee	Crown of Red	Double Mini Orchid
Andante	Behnke Boy	Bubblin' Over	Chiffon Wasp	Crusade Trail	Double Orchid Girl
Andy Griffiths	Benjamin	Bud's Lonesome George	Chipper	Crytal Rose	Double Orchid Splendor
Anna Therese	Bergen Strawberry Sherbert	Bud's Strike Me Pink	Cinderella (Flower Pot)	Curley Q	Double Pink Cameo
Anne's Favorite Sport	Bernice	Bulls Eye	Cinderella's Slipper	Daddy's Girl	Double Pink Cloud
Antique Bliss	Billy "Crash" Craddock	Bunny Hop	Cindy Darlene	Dagmar	Double Seafoam
Antique Elegance	Bing Cherry	Burgundy Bliss	Circus Circus	Dainty Doll	Double Take
Antique Mahogany	Black Gold	Burgundy Wasp	Circus Clown	Dainty Maid	Double Uncle Bob
Apache Campfire	Black Velvet	Buttercup	Clackamas Surprise	Daisy Doll	Double Velvet Girl
Apple Valley	Black Waves	Butterflies	Clipper	Dallas Pride	Double Wild Rosa
Apricot Frost	Blazing	Butterfly White	Clipper Trail	Dalliance	Dresden China
Arabesque	Blizzard	Button Trinket	CoCo (Arndt)	Dansuese	Dress Blues
Arpege	Blue Albino Girl	Buttons and Bows	Coconut Fluff	Daphne (High Hill)	Dupohnt Purple
Artic Blizzard	Blueberry Ruffles	Cafe Au Lait	Colonial Pink	Dardevil	Dutchman
Athens	Blue Bonnet	Calico Kitten	Colorama	Dark Angel	Dwarf Ionantha
Atlantic City	Blue Bouquet	California Cascade	Colibre	Dark Crystal	Easter Bonnet
Audry	Blue Buttercup	California Giant	Color Splash	Dark Eyes	Easter Egg
Aunt Clara	Blue Dart	Camellia	Columbella	Darth Vader	Edna Haugh
Autumn Glow	Blue Fandango	Camouflage	Comanche maid	Dates Fanfare	Edith's Toy
Autumn Halo	Blue Fling	Campanile	Comet Trail	Dates Jubilee	Edna's Joy
Autumn Russett	Blue Heiress	CandleLight	Conchita	Dates Masterson Wasp	Eileen
Azure Beauty	Blue Girl	Candy Dandy	Confessions	Dave Masterson	Eleanor
Azure Trinket	Blue Le Fleur	Caravan Autumn Blaze	Constance Hansen	Dean's Velvet One	Elsie

Elsted's Oakleaf Cluster	Heather Mist	Linda's Toy	Nona Weber	Ramblin' Rascal	Stateliner
El Toro Supreme	Heavenly Halo	Little Boy Blue	Nortex's Holiday Haven	Raspberry Charm Stripe	Stormy Night
Emma Lahr	Helen VanPelt Wilson	Little Busy Bee	Nosy Bouquet	Raspberry Frills	Sugar Plum Fairy
Emperor Wilhelm	Highbrow	Little Dee	Odyssey	Raspberry Glo Stripe	Summer Lightening
Eternal Snow	Hobnail Pink	Little Doe	Ohio Bountiful	Raspberry Sundae	Summer Silk
Etna	Holly Dolly	Little Geneva Princess	Old Black Joe	Ravenscrest	Summer Spice
Eyeful	Holly Go Lightly	Little Joan	Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)	Ravishing Ruffles	Suncoast Pink Giant
Fairy Image	Hood Wink	Little Lois	On Edge	Razzle Dazzle	Sunday Morning
Fairy Prince	Hortenses Zapata	Little Lou	Optimara Angelica	Red and White	Swan Lake
Fancy Flirt	Hot Buttered Rum	Little Louie	Optimara Annie	Red Carnation	Sweet Honesty
Fancy Pants	Hot Cargo	Little Love	Optimara Little Cherokee	Red Rocket	Sweet Lady
Fantasy Double Ann	Hot Line	Little Lulu	Optimara Kansas	Red Velvet	Sweet Mary
Fantasy Wasp	Hot Touch	Little Maroon	Optimara Louisiana	Reed's Pink Lemonade	Swiftly Lace
Fantasy Lou	Iceberg	Little Miss Texas	Optimara Missouri	Regina	Taffy Pull
Fashion Frenzy	Illini Deb	Little Rascal	Optimara New Jersey	Renee	Tangier
Festival	Illini Gem	Little Red Wagon	Optimara Nevada	Renee Edmondson	Targeteer
Fire Bugg	Inca Maid	Little Ruddy	Optimara North Dakota	Reverie	Tassy Barbara Childs
Fire Dance	Indian Girl	Little Seabird	Optimara Oregon	Rhapsodie Candy	Teen Princess
First Recital	Indian Summer	Lola	Optimara Pennsylvania	Rhapsodie GiGi	Teen Queen
Fisher's Anne Marie	Irene	Loma	Orchid Beauty	Rhapsodie Maria	Teen Wonder
Fisher's Miss Muffit	Ivory Fashion	Love Song	Orchid Ripples	Rhapsodie Roxanne	Tennessee Apple Blossom
Flamingo Girl	Ivory Venus	Lulu Belle	Oui Bells	Rhapsodie Venus	The Bride
Fleur De Mais	Jade	Lucky Duck	Oui Ben	Rhapsody	The Parson
Floral Fantasy	Jantien	Lucky Stripe	Oui Louie	Rhinestone Cowboy	The Parson's Nadine
Ford's Pinwheel	Jasmini	Luxury	Oui Love	Richter's Pearly Shells	The Parson's Ruffles
Fox Run	Jazzy	Lyndy Lou	Oregon Trail	Richter's Step Up	The Parson's Wife
Frances Young	Jeanmarie	Lynn	Pagan Fire	Rippled Romance	Tidewater's Sweetheart
Frank White	Jeff's Jewel	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Painted Lady	Risque Barbara Childs	Timber Top
Frathe's Debbie	Jennefer	Madison's Whisper Blue	Pam's Potpourri	Rob's June Bug	Tinari's Blue Eyes
Frathe's Most Precious	Jillian (Fredette)	Mammy	Pansy Trail	Rob's Nearly Perfect	Tinari's Wild Girl
Fredette's Blue Jean	Jimmy Crack Corn	Manhattan	Paragon	Robyn Lynn	Tinted Snow
Fredette's Elita	Joanne Cora	Marcella	Parisienne Sport	Rosalynn Carter	Tiny Blue
Fredette's Sugar Blues	Jovanny	Mardi Gras	Park Avenue	Rosebud Trail	Tiny Pink
Fredette's Twilight Fantasy	Jo's Velveteen	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Patriot	Rosie Lou	Top Notch
Friendship	Josie Chris Mason	Marine Jim Schendel	Paul Bunyon	Rowena	Tribute
Fried Blue	Joy Pink	Maroon Frost	Paul's Pazazz	Royal Elegance	Triple Threat
Fried Orchid Rosette	Juline Jean Stokes	Marvin's Silver Girl	Peach Frost	Royal Heart	Twinkle
Fringed Charm	Just Beautiful	Mary Lou	Peach Jubilee	Royal Ruby	Twist of Lime
Frosty Hector Wong	Kansas City Chiefs	Mary Louise	Peach Ruffles	Ruthies Bell	Uler's Azure Beauty
Galt Grape	Kansas City Royals	Maverick's Tight Jeans	Peak of Pink	Sabrina Marie	Ultra Violet Twinkle
Gay Confetti	Karen Linda	Maverick's Young Love	Peepers	Sailor's Dream	Unpredictable (Swift)
Gay Coquette	Karla Lou	May Dance	Peggy Staat	Sailor Girl	Valera
Gay Miss	Kay Russell	Meek's Katy Baby	Peppermint Fog	Sancoucy	Vibrant Val
Gay Patee	King Richard	Megan	Peppermint Frost	Scarlet Macaw	Victorian Pink
Geane Marie	Kiss't	Melly	Pilgrim Maid	Sea Bells	Violets N' Gold
Genesee Silhouette	Kramer's Easterling	Melodie Frances	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sea Grape	Viva
Geneva Rose	Krista Lynn	Melodie Heather	Pink Beauty	Sea Gull	Vulcan's Treasure
Geneva Trail	Krisie	Melodie Kristen	Pink Dresden	Sea Queen	Waltztime
GiGi (not Rhapsodie)	Kuhl's Parnassus	Merida Wasp	Pink Fingers	Sensational	Wedgewood
Gilded Strawberry	Kuhl's Pink Treasure	Merry Christmas (Kramer)	Pink Frosting	Shannon Renee	Wee Stevie
Ginger Cy Yee	Kuhl's Roundelay	Michele	Pink Geneva	Shasta Nancy Sullivan	Westdale Purple Mountain
Glacier Point	Kuhl's Talie Rose	Midget RicRac	Pink Girl	Sherry Love	What Now
Glow Baby	Lacy Girl	Midnight Star	Pink Mink	Sheryl's Renee	Whirlaway
Gorgeous Bicolor	Lacy Laser	Mighty Mini	Pink Reverie	Shine Boy	Whirlaway Sport
Gorgeous One	Lacy Red	Millie Blair	Pink Ruffled	Show Stopper	Whisper Valley
Granger Gardens Angel Lace I	Lady Ahura	Mimi's Stars	Pink Velvet	Silver Anniversary	White Bloomin' Fool
Granger Gardens Blue Empress	Lady Catherine	Mindi's Tears	Pink Wasp	Silver Champion	White Delaware
Granger Gardens Fuchsia Brid	Lady Clara	Mine Alone	Pistacio	Silver Crest	White Girl
Granger Gardens White Gold	Lady Constant	Ming Rose	Plum Passion	Silver Flute	White Pride Supreme
Granger's Blue Fashionaire	Lady Luck	Plum White	Plum Tip	Silver Token	White Wedgewood
Granger's Calais	Lady of Spain	Mini Fantasy	Pom Pom Delight	Sixpense	White Whisper
Granger's Candyland	Laredo Lad	Miriam Steel	Popsicle	Skagit Ambassador	Wine and Roses
Granger's Cotillion	Last Snow	Miss Liberty	Pretty Baby	Skagit Lil Bonus	Witchcraft
Granger's Eternal Snow	Laurinda	Miss Wisconsin	Pretty in Blue	Skagit Pixie Doll	Wizard of Oz
Granger's Fashionaire	Lavender Blue	Mohawk Trail	Pretty Please	Skagit Royalty	Wonder Surprise
Granger's Festival	Lavender Elfin Girl	Molly's Folly	Priscilla	Skagit Toy Asset	Wrangler's Campfire
Granger's Jim Dandy	Lavender Lady	Monaco	Puerto Vallarta	Skybird	Wrangler's Double Pleasure
Granger's Gamet Elf	Lavender Love	Moonfire	Pure Innocence	Sky Magic	Wrangler's High Country
Granger's Peppermint	Lavender Swirls	Moonlight and Roses	Purple Enchantment	Smile	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Granger's Rio Rita	Leawalla	Moon Moths	Purple Nautilus	Snow Drops	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Granger's Rose Ember	LeBaron	Moon Silver	Purple Rocket	Snow Flake	Wrangler's Lavender Lasso
Granger's Rosemarie	Legacy	Morea Surf	Purple Smoke Rings	Snow Flurie (Arndt)	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Granger's Venetian Lace	LeHeur Bleu	Mountain Blue Boy	Purple Star	Snow Queen	Wrangler's Moonshine
Great Find	Leprechaun Trail	Mountain Wildflowers	Push Over	So Rosy	Wrangler's Pardner
Great Scott	Levittown	Mount Fuji	Quiet Enough	Spangles	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Great White Way	Liberty Bell	Ms Frizz	Quiet Laughter	Special Attraction	Wrangler's Ricochet Romance
Green Glo	Lilac Lassie	My Darling	Quiet Melody	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Green Hornet	Lilac Puff	My Lady Sue	Quiet Reflection	Sport of Crimson Frost	Wrangler's Roundup
Grenadier	Lilac Time - Behnke	My Spoon	Rachel	Spring Deb	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Gypsy Charm	Lilibelle	Mysterium	Radiant Star	Spring Mist	Wrangler's Twilight Trail
Half and Half	Lithe Lassie	Nadine	Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo	Star of David	Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Hankerchief	Lime Taffy	Neon Rainbow	Rainbow's Showboat	Star of India	Zippy (Baker)
Hawaiian Eye	Linda's Love	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Rainmaker (Blansit)	Star Trailer	Zuri

Showcase

Boreal

Exhibited by: Joan Pearce

Hybridized by: Denis Croteau

AVS of Canada

Large Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Beca's Zimbabwe

Exhibited by: Maida denOudsten

AVS of Canada

Hybridized by: C. Beca

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Chirita moonii

Exhibited by: *Paul Sorano*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Morgan's Popup

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Carol Eros

AVS of Canada

Semiminiature

Violets on the Move

by Phyllis King

Packing your plants to move them to a show? It can be easy, but it takes some planning to get to that point. I have tried several different ways over the years that I have been transporting large plants to shows. If you drive a car, it is very difficult to pack very many plants at one time. I have used a large piece of lightweight plywood, cut in two pieces that extended from the back window to the back of the front seat. This way I could have a second layer of violets in the car. It worked very well. I still prefer shredded paper best when packing them in just open boxes. I keep these boxes forever. Large boxes can be used for all sales as well as shows. I save boxes that fit inside of each other for easy storage. Some boxes I found when buying new appliances. You can cut them down to about four inches high. If you can find big enough boxes, you will be able to place about fifteen to twenty miniatures in them for transporting.

When I moved from Louisiana to Florida, I decided to buy a van to move all my baby plants. In a van it is much safer to use enclosed boxes. They can be stacked on top of each other, and you are also able to lay some open boxes on top them. Most all of mine are U-Haul boxes. I acquired them from a fellow violet grower who had them cut to size already. Most of them have been redone for my violets. You will need boxes that are big enough for the average size plant that you grow.

Most of mine are 20 x 20, sixteen to eighteen inches high. The box must be much taller so you can cut a top that will be about four inches to lap over the bottom half. You will need to redo the whole box. You will never find the right size. Once you have them cut, you can use packing tape and put them back together.

Each time we have a show, all I have to do is apply tape across the bottom. When breaking them back down, just pull the tape off and flatten them out for storage. Inside the box, I have inserts that are bent on the sides so they go up about one inch from the bottom. The edge of the table is a good way to bend them. I then cut a hole in the center of them for the sized pot that I use for big plants. The lids I leave as is with the insert from the bottom. You can also buy cardboard in large pieces from U-Haul. They can be stuffed with plastic bags if a flower-pot happens to be smaller than the hole that you made. One more thing. I cut about a 3-inch hole on each side of the box so the plant can have air, and the holes work well for picking them up when moving them. A hole cutter comes in handy for making the holes. I have used these boxes for ten years, and they are still in fairly good shape. Good luck!

From *The Dixie News*, publication of the Dixie AVS



Donations Are Still Being Accepted For The Annual AVSA Convention Auction

To all members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercial members – it's not too late to make violet related donations to our sixth annual luncheon auction. We really can use your help. Donations of items such as crafts, supplies, newly introduced plant material of all types, or any other violet related item of a unique or desirable nature are still being sought.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me as soon as possible. Kindly provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and whether you are sending them ahead or bringing it to convention.

Just a reminder, you must attend the luncheon in order to participate in the auction.

Won't you join us at the luncheon and consider donating an item to help AVSA?

Please send notice of intent to donate to:

Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road
Shelton, CT 06484
1-2003-926-9716
Apapillon@aol.com

Donations for the convention may be sent to:

Robert Truax

408 Hearthstone Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806



AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd- 196E • Sebring, FL 33872

Donations October 1 - November 30, 2002

AVS of Morris County, NJ	\$10.00
Grace M. Cross, Somerset, Bermuda	5.00
Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA	3.00
Hazel Bressler, Clovis, CA	20.00
Sarah Opie, Cornwall, England	5.00
Agatha Garrison, Estancia, NM	5.00
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Raleigh, NC	20.00
Penny L. Smith-Kerker, Austin, TX	20.00
Betty L. Kellner, Woodstock, IL	10.00
New York State AVS, Albany, NY	5.00
Georgene Albrecht, Oakdale, PA	20.00
<i>In memory of Laura Shannon and Don Ness</i>	
Penelope Wezel, Ulster, PA	25.00
<i>In memory of Laura Shannon</i>	
Inner City AV Club, St Louis, MO	20.00
Tri-State AV Council, Lafayette, NJ	15.00
<i>In lieu of judges expenses for Laurel Brown, Edna Rourke, Susan Amao</i>	
New Jersey Council of AV Judges, Columbus, NJ	50.00
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX	20.00
<i>In memory of J. C. Monk</i>	
Mid-Polk AVS, WinterHaven, FL	10.00
<i>In memory of Andy Adams, father-in-law of member Jean Adams</i>	
Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL	20.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari and Bill Lyons</i>	
George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX	5.00
Claude Morrisette, Brookfield, CT	5.00
Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, NJ	5.00
Martha Hart, Rochester, NY	10.00

St Louis AV Judges Council, St Louis, MO	\$25.00
Frances Olson, Rush City, MN	10.00
Stephen Phillips, Greenville, SC	25.00
Brenda M. Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS	10.00
Joan Baker, Thief River Falls, MN	5.00
Wisconsin Council of AVSA, Menomonee Falls, WI	25.00
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ	25.00
<i>In lieu of speaker fees for Karyn Cichocki, in memory of Laura Shannon</i>	
Ohio State AVS, Yellow Springs, OH	100.00
<i>In memory of 40-year member Mildred Lusk</i>	
Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA	25.00
<i>In memory of good friend Don Ness</i>	
Garden State AV Club, Clarksburg, NJ	10.00
<i>In lieu of speaker fees for Karyn Cichocki</i>	
Garden State AV Club, Clarksburg, NJ	15.00
<i>In lieu of travel expenses for Laurel Brown, Janice Murasko, Florence Friedman; apply to microfilm project</i>	
Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL	15.00
<i>In memory of Don Ness</i>	
Maury and Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	50.00
The Washington, D.C. Convention collection given	93.00
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons, with heartfelt thanks from Kay Lyons</i>	
TOTAL:	\$766.50

SPECIAL REQUEST

Donations to the various AVSA fund-raising committees are much appreciated. If you would like to have acknowledgements sent to people being honored or remembered, please submit names and addresses when you send your donation.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

Garden State AV Club, Clarksburg, NJ	\$25.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker Fees, Janet Riemer</i>	
Inner City AV Club, St Louis, MO	10.00
Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX	20.00
<i>In Memory of J. C. Munk</i>	
Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO	25.00
<i>In Memory of Bill Lyons and Frank Tinari</i>	
New Jersey Council of AV Judges	50.00
<i>In Memory of Laura Shannon</i>	
Tristate AV Council	5.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses, Roger Wheeler</i>	
Tristate AV Council	50.00
<i>In Memory of Laura Shannon</i>	
Martha Hart, Rochester, NY	10.00
Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, NJ	5.00
Frances Olson, Rush City, MN	10.00
Ronald M. Patterson, New York, NY	10.00
George R. Steward, Universal City, TX	2.00
TOTAL	\$222.00

AVC of Burlington County, Willingboro, NJ	\$50.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Caryn Cichocki</i>	
Ohio State AVS, Yellow Springs, OH	100.00
WI Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee Falls, WI	25.00
Mark C. Bander, Dewitt, MI	50.00
Janeen Dougherty, Morristown, NJ	10.00
Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK	10.00
Jim Gibbons, Aydtlett, NC	5.00
Maury & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	50.00
Shirley Killpatrick, Largo, FL	5.00
Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY	10.00
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ	25.00
<i>In memory of Ruth Warren</i>	
John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	5.00
Mary Walbrick, Wichita Falls, TX	25.00
<i>In memory of Ruth Warren</i>	
TOTAL	\$370.00

Showcase

Optimara Little Crow

Exhibited by: Margaret Lowndes

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Shan

Exhibited by: Margaret Gratto

AVS of Canada

Hybridized by: B. Johnson

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Trichantha pulchra
'Orange Crush'

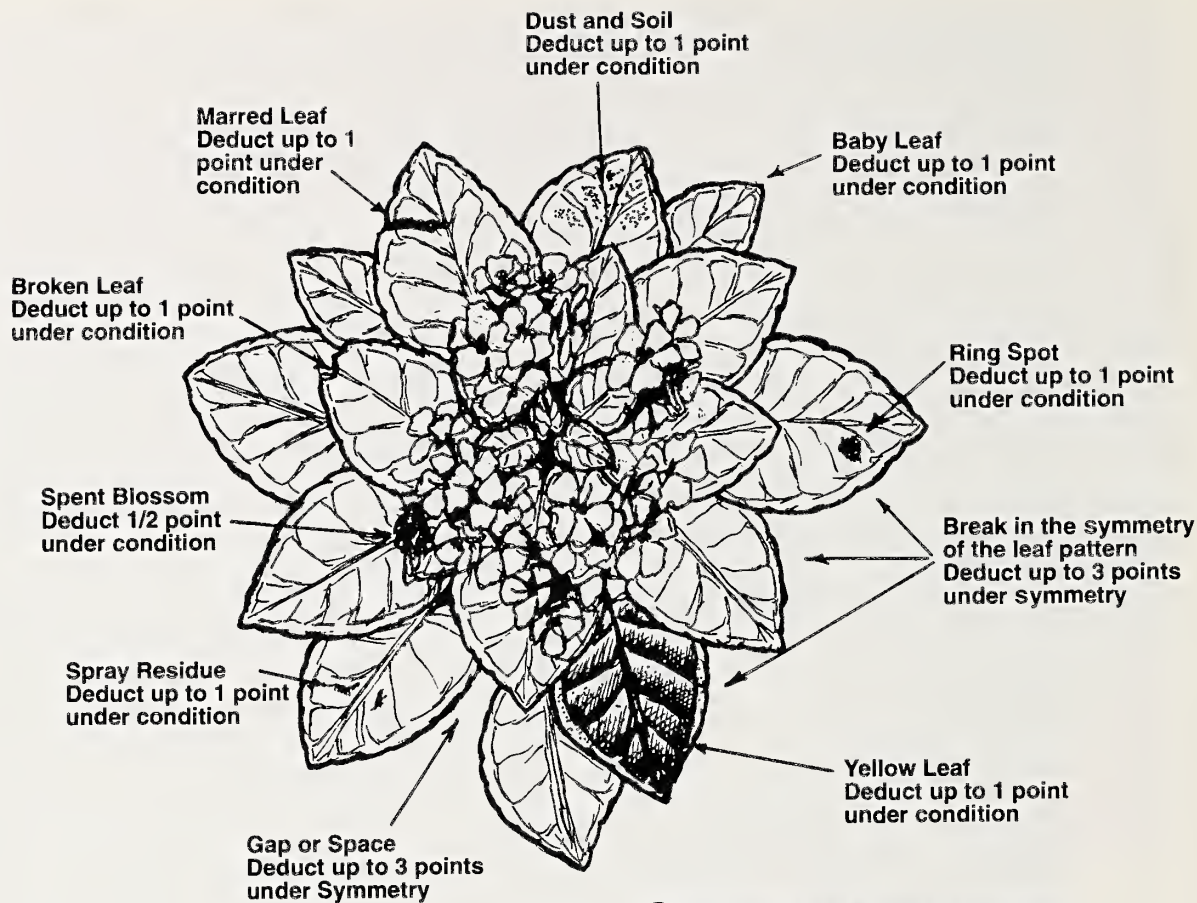
Best Other Gesneriad

2002 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Robert McCabe

JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



Symmetry - the shape of the plant
Condition - cultural aspect of the plant at the time it is judged



Plant not centered in pot
 Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Neck
 Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Over potted
 Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Under potted
 Deduct up to 3 points under condition

Have Members.....NEED MORE!

Last year Mary Boland, AVSA past president, suggested that we have a membership promotional table in the show room at the Washington AVSA Convention. We were able to secure 13 new memberships, and we hope for more this year! You hear people talk about giving the gift of life when you donate blood. Well, how about the gift of life to AVSA with the purchase of a gift membership??!! We will have Board Members and AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee Members manning the table on Friday night and most of the day on Saturday.

We certainly encourage you to visit our commercial salesroom and make loads and loads of purchases. While in Baton Rouge next month, how about putting 25 bucks aside and using it to give a gift subscription to our wonderful AVM and thus a new membership? This is going to be one of the

more reasonably priced conventions in some time, so save a few pennies and visit our table. Each membership purchased at that table will receive a free copy of the March issue of the AVM. So you are giving an extra copy to this new member, or save it to promote AVSA with someone else.

Gifts are very special to students interested in our beautiful African violet, to senior citizens on a fixed income, to a library or a convalescent home, or just a new violet friend. This magazine makes for good reading in a doctor's office, too.

The good news is that our membership is up. We are climbing steadily, but we are still a far ways from 10,000 members. Help us with this project. We really need our membership to step up and help. Stop by the table in the show room, say hello, and see what we have to offer.

Attention All Affiliates!

We have addressed two of the most important aspects of a club meeting at our latest convention affiliate meetings, short business meetings, and interesting programs. Now I hope you are ready to reach out and increase membership, both for your affiliate and for AVSA. If you are planning to attend the Baton Rouge convention, we want to help you. All presidents, vice presidents, program chairmen, and interested affiliate members are invited. We hope every affiliate will have a representative present at the Affiliate Meeting.

Wednesday, April 23

4:00-5:00 p.m.

The program will feature members from some of the recent affiliate winners of the Anne Tinari award for the most new AVSA members. They will share with you the methods used for attracting membership, for your affiliate as well as for AVSA. There will be demonstrations, ideas, and even a little drama. We **want your questions! WE need your answers!** Please join us!



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506

Promers22@hotmail.com

AVSA and the Affiliate Committee welcome the following new Affiliates in Virginia and New York:

Shenandoah Saintpaulia Society

President - Richard Follett

111 South Funk Street • Strasburg, VA 22657

Phone 540-465-2976, E-mail richfoll@yahoo.com

Meetings: Third Monday each month at 7:00 p.m.

Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society

President - Lee Stradley

1923 Cole Place • Vestal, NY 13850

Lstradle@us.ibm.com

Also, welcome to three new Internet clubs:

AVI Photography

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI Photography](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI%20Photography)

Karen Panek

Karen@world-net.co.nz

AVI Streptocarpus Lovers

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI Streps](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI%20Streps)

Karen Panek

Karen@world-net.co.nz

AVI Hybridising Club

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI Hybridising](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AVI%20Hybridising)

Karen Panek

Karen@world-net.co.nz

If you are interested in any of the internet clubs affiliated with AVSA, log on to www.avsa.org, click on local clubs, scroll to the last region at the bottom of the list, click, and see what options are available.

A new club is forming in Hamilton, New Zealand. We hope that anyone in or nearby will take advantage of the opportunity to join this group.

Contact: **Karen Panek**

PO Box 1495 • Hamilton 2001 New Zealand

Karen@world-net.co.nz



Antique Rose Lace



Peek-a-boo Lace



Royal Purple Lace



Midnight Lace



Fuchsia Lace



Imperial Lace



Lavender Lace

Photos by Dr. Tammy L. Turner, Charles A. Gibbons, and George E. Gay

THE REALIZATION OF A DREAM

by Dr. Tammy L. Turner, from interviews with George E. Gay

While attending a meeting of the Fort Massac African Violet Club late last year, I learned that one of our members, George E. Gay, was in the process of registering some new African violet hybrids. I was excited to see his name and the hybrids listed in the Master Variety List supplement included in the Nov/Dec. 2001 issue of AVSA magazine. Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with George about the new hybrids and his experiences in growing African violets.

George certainly is not a newcomer to growing African violets. He has grown them for more than fifty years! He says that he was simply looking for an attractive and unusual houseplant to use for a school project. There were no African violets available in his hometown of Wickliffe, Kentucky when he was a young boy. He acquired his first plant, Blue Boy, for one dollar through a mail-order catalog. A lifetime fascination began with the arrival of that plant.

He began growing African violets under fluorescent lighting while living in St. Louis in the 1960s. This was before the practice of using such lighting became popular with hobby growers. For George, it was a matter of necessity because he was living in an apartment that had very little natural light. Since then, he has participated in a number of shows in various parts of the country. He even received the Best of Show ribbon for a miniature, Glamour Girl, that he entered at the Fairchild Botanic Gardens in Miami, Florida.

His childhood experiments in hybridization led to a life-time interest in genetics and patterns of inheritance in African violets. He began to work on developing a new hybrid in the early 1990s while living in Miami, Florida.

Hurricane Andrew swept through Miami on August 24, 1992. The result was devastating. George's greenhouse,

which contained over a thousand plants, was destroyed in the storm. The seeds from his hybridization experiments survived only because he had placed them in his pocket just before the hurricane swept into Miami. Discouraged after the loss of so many plants, he felt his goal of producing a new hybrid would never be achieved.

In January 1993, he returned to his farm in Wickliffe, Kentucky. He still had the seeds that had been saved during the hurricane. The new location brought revived enthusiasm in pursuing his hybridization goals. He decided to plant the seeds and see what new plants would result. After eight years of ardent work, he registered six hybrids in 2001: Lavender Lace, Imperial Lace, Peek-a-boo Lace, Midnight Lace, Antique Rose Lace, and Royal Purple Lace. He chose "lace" due to the ruffled appearance of the blossoms and leaves. When grown cool, the leaves have green dots and dashes on a white variegated leaf, resembling an antique lace doily with blossoms.

The new hybrids were introduced at the Fort Massac African Violet Club's annual show in May 2002. They were well received by those in attendance. Visitors to the show were asked to vote for their favorite show plant. Antique Rose Lace and Lavender Lace, respectively, received the most votes. When asked if he plans to continue hybridizing, George says he has realized one of his goals, but does not plan any large hybridization projects for the future. He is entertaining thoughts of hybridizing miniature African violet trailers.

George smiles and admits, "We all know African violet fever is contagious and incurable!" Currently, he is working on a few hybrids that are not registered - yet!

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AVSA BYLAWS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendment to ARTICLE X, Section 1 h. of AVSA Bylaws regarding STANDING COMMITTEES will be voted on at the AVSA 2003 Annual Convention at Baton Rouge, LA:

ARTICLE X, Section 1 h. currently reads:

h. **LIBRARY**: shall be responsible for the operation, maintenance, improvement and promotion of AVSA library materials.

If adopted, ARTICLE X, Section 1 h. would read:

h. **MEDIA**: shall be responsible for the operation,

maintenance, improvement and promotion of AVSA library **and other media** materials. [changes are bolded.]

RATIONALE: The Library Committee is now handling materials beyond those normally thought of as library materials.

Bylaws Committee:

Mary Lou Harden, Chair

Janet Riemer

Mary Boland

Jackie Jones

Iris Keating

LIGHT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Part One

by Nancy Robitaille

Plants process light just as we use food. Whether from the sun or from artificial sources, green pigmentation (chlorophyll in African violet leaves) absorbs solar energy which allows the plant to either use it for growth or store it for future use. This is why fertilizers are not the true plant food; the only true food plants get is from sunlight.

The Facts of Light

The word "Photosynthesis" means the manufacture of carbohydrates (sugar and starch) necessary for growth in plants. The use of light for energy and carbon dioxide and water derived from the air and the soil are major building blocks. This process occurs only in the green parts of the plant, in specialized organs known as chloroplasts, which are rich in chlorophyll, making them green in color.

Growing Violets in Windows versus Growing in Light Gardens

Why even consider artificial light for growing African violets, or any other houseplant for that matter? Yes, the sun emits light at a relatively steady rate, but our plants don't always get the benefits of this consistency. Most of us do not live in the tropics where light intensity and day length is different from our own which drops sharply, especially during the winter. Many plants simply do not get enough light for good growth. In summer our sun can get to extremes where there is more light than the plant can handle. Cloud cover for days on end can prevent our well placed plants from getting the light they need. Insufficient window light pushes plant hobbyists to look for good quality, inexpensive substitutes for sunlight.

Plants grown in light gardens have an advantage of constant, equal light intensities and durations through the year and throughout the cycles of the plant. It is not necessary for them to deal with rapidly changing temperatures when the summer sun shines down on them or when our cold winter air gets to them through a simple pane of glass. Even dry air is rarely a major problem since large numbers of plants are naturally grouped together in a light garden creating a humid micro-climate which African violets adore. Light gardening also allows hobbyists to place plants where they want them to be, rather than having to make sure there is a suitably oriented window nearby.

All this is not to say it is not possible to grow beautiful, symmetrical African violets with window lights. It has been done and is presently being done by many growers.

Choosing the Right Light

Artificial light is beneficial, but what kind is best for our African violets? Let us study the three major kinds available to home growers: incandescent, HID and fluorescent.

1. Incandescent Light

Incandescent bulbs are the common light bulbs we use in our homes, and these give off about 70% of their energy as heat. Plants grown under these can be easily scorched and dry out rapidly. The heat problem means that plants which need a fair amount of light for good growth and bloom, such as African violets, have to be placed so far from the bulb to avoid the negative effects of heat that they are no longer getting enough light intensity for healthy growth and flowering. Either too hot, or not enough intensity: it's a truly vicious circle!

Incandescent bulbs also tend to produce mostly red and far red light rays, a very poor balance which gives weak, floppy growth, although it does stimulate flowering.

In general, incandescent light is a poor choice for plants depending entirely on artificial light.

Incandescent bulbs can, however, be very helpful for plants which get some natural light but not enough for good flowering, such as those grown in a north window. These are typically plants which look fairly healthy but which bloom sparsely or not at all. Even an incandescent bulb placed quite a distance away from the plants will supply some extra light...and that is often enough to encourage the plant to bloom. Such supplemental lighting is often most useful during the winter months.

2. HID

HID (High Intensity Discharge) lights, including halogen lamps, sodium lamps, mercury vapor lamps, etc. are currently very popular in large commercial installations such as greenhouses, office buildings, atriums, and shopping centers, where they are appreciated for the great intensity of light given off. In fact, a single HID lamp can brilliantly light every nook and cranny of a fair-sized room. However, the current forms of HID plant lamps are extremely intense, much too hot, and too glaring for home use. Undoubtedly, useful HID lamps of weaker intensity will be used more and more in home growing in future years.

3. Fluorescent Tubes

Presently fluorescent tubes are the best single artificial

light source for growing plants in the home. They give off far more light per watt of electricity used than incandescent lights while emitting relatively little heat. Their linear form allows them to light vast surfaces (a single two-tube fixture can illuminate a veritable indoor garden), they offer light rich in blue rays for compact, healthy growth while still giving enough red light for good bloom, and they are inexpensive to buy and operate. They are also good at growing plants that many people no longer trust to window sill growing!

Fluorescent lights do have drawbacks, but fortunately they are minor ones. The most obvious one is that, although they give good light over a wide horizontal surface, plants must be placed right up near the light source in order to grow well. The intensity of fluorescent lamps drops below minimum plant light levels only a short distance from the tubes. That means that tall growing plants get plentiful light at their summits, while their bottom leaves are literally left in the dark. This is not a problem with African violets, however, as their even, flat, rosette-like growth spreads out neatly, receiving equal light all over. In fact, one could hardly imagine a plant better adapted to growing under fluorescent lights than the Saintpaulia!

Fluorescents Yesterday and Today

Fluorescent lights were first offered to the public in 1938 at just about the same time African violets were becoming popular with the public. In fact, Saintpaulia hobbyists adopted them so quickly that one could say that the popularity of African violets is largely due to the development of the fluorescent light! The first tubes were a bit dangerous since when broken, the powder coating the inside of the glass tubes was said to penetrate any cut and prevent it from healing properly. Those early tubes are no longer in circulation, and current ones pose no problem.

The most common types of fluorescent tubes available today are commercial ones, such as Cool White and Warm White. Although they are not specifically designed for plant growth, they are inexpensive and give excellent results with most plants, including African violets. Many growers recommend using a combination of one Cool White tube and one Warm White tube per fixture.

There are also many types of fluorescent tubes which were developed for horticultural purposes. Among them are: Gro-lux, Gro-lux Wide spectrum, Verilux TruBloom, Naturescent/Optima, Vita-Light, Plant-Grow, Plant-Light, Agro Lite, and many more. Many African violet growers swear by Wide Spectrum Gro-Lux tubes. Generally speaking, if you are growing African violets for pleasure or even for local shows, the Cool White-Warm White combination will be more than satisfactory. If, on the other hand, you're growing

for national shows or if your local shows are very competitive, you'll want to experiment with horticultural tubes to find out which combination gives you winning results.

Some Saintpaulia growers may have wondered about the advantages of VHO tubes. The term VHO (Very High Output) refers to high-powered fluorescent tubes which give almost three times the illumination as other types (27 watts per foot as opposed to 10). These lights are especially good for cacti, orchids, and geraniums (*Pelargonium*). African violets, however, grow very well with tubes of ordinary intensity, and VHO tubes have not been found to be better than those listed above.

Setting Up Your Light Garden

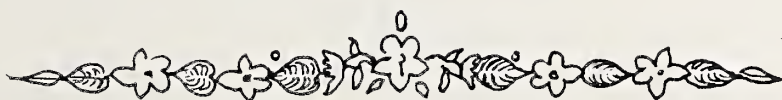
There are many types of light gardens - a simple lamp suspended over a table, fluorescent-lit bookcases, home-made light gardens, commercial tiered stands, etc. - and you can grow violets under all of them. Just choose the one that suits your needs, your technical skills, and your pocket-book.

In planning your light garden, do try to make sure that the height of either the shelves or the light fixtures is adjustable so that you can vary the distance between the lamp and the plants. For example, the light fixtures could be suspended on chains so they can be raised or lowered as needed. In the case of African violets, you'll probably want to hang a two-tube light fixture about 45 cm (18 inches) above the plant tray, which, taking into account the height of the pot, will put the plant about 30 cm (12 inches) from the tubes. If your fixture has four tubes, it gives off a greater intensity of light. I would recommend setting the lamp at 60 cm (2 feet) or more from the plant tray. You'll probably find you'll want to adjust these distances, depending on the intensity of the tubes you use and the kind of results you expect.

Some growers have light gardens with one long rectangular tray set under either two or four 40-watt fluorescent tubes. This may be the most efficient solution for fluorescent lighting. One light fixture with such a tray may contain as many as forty young African violets without their leaves touching. As each plant grows, additional rows of leaves are gradually produced, forming a beautiful flat rosette. At this point, more room will be needed for each plant.

Because plants under fluorescent tubes grow faster than plants grown on window sills, you will find it necessary to treat them a bit differently. Those under lights will need more fertilizer and should be repotted more often than those grown in the window. Remember also to dust your tubes frequently or a lot of light intensity will be lost.

Light For African Violets - Part Two will appear in the
May/June 2003 *African Violet Magazine*



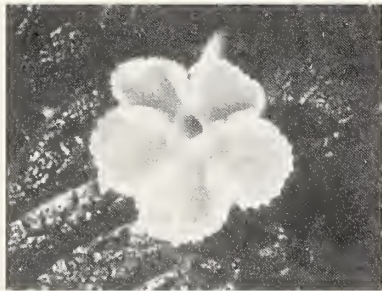
Episcia

by John Beaulieu

Because of the variety of foliage color and textures, these popular plants are often called the Peacocks of the gesneriad family. Many people commonly call all *Episcia* 'Chocolate Soldiers', but the 'Chocolate Soldier' is only one of hundreds of *Episcia* hybrids.

The fibrous rooted *Episcia* (pronounced ep-ISH-ee-ah) are found from Mexico to Brazil. Because they send out runners or stolons like strawberries, they are usually sold in hanging baskets when available at florists or garden centers. Most mail order sources or club sales tables offer newly rooted or fresh cut stolons as starter plants. With this spreading ability, the *Episcia* are a ground cover in the wild. Unfortunately, they are not as adaptable for growing outside as other gesneriads, and this would only be recommended if you live in the extreme southern United States.

Episcia are easily grown under lights or in a bright sunny window if normal precautions are taken against hot, direct sun or cold winter drafts. They prefer to be on the warm side, and could show damage if the temperature falls below 50° F. On an indoor light garden, they would love the warmer top shelves.



One of the most unique *Episcia* flowers is that of the 'Star of Bethlehem' hybrid. The petals are cream colored with coral pink stripes radiating from a yellow center. The foliage is a beautiful dark brown.

Although they can be grown in any type of container with good drainage, their stolon producing habit makes them a good candidate for growing in strawberry pots. Those are the ones with all the little openings in which stolons can be rooted.

Like many other gesneriads, especially the vine-like ones, *Episcia* grow rapidly and will need to be trimmed back. Scraggly plants caused by insufficient light or attention should be restarted from the stolons.

Take cuttings of stolons or healthy growing tips and trim off the lower leaves. Insert these stems into a container of fresh potting mix and keep fairly moist. If the air is dry, a plastic cover helps maintain the needed humidity until the new cuttings are established. Rooting usually starts within a week.

Most of the cultivars available today are the result of hybridizing with three main species.

Episcia cupreata (cup-ree-AY-tah) is from Columbia and Venezuela and means copper-colored. The leaves of this original species are a deep coppery green, the flower is orange-red with a short curved corolla tube, the lobes are rounded,

and the inside is yellow with red spots. There is a natural variation from Panama with light green leaves and yellow flowers, known as 'Tropical Topaz'. Other popular hybrids of this group are 'Acajou', 'Silver Sheen', and 'Columbia Orange'.



Episcia reptans (means creeping) comes from Columbia, Brazil, and Guiana. Their leaves are a deep bronze-green, with a narrow pale green or silver pattern on the midrib. These flowers have a straighter tube that is deep red with pink in the throat and is not spotted. 'Adams Rib' and 'Grey Lady' are popular hybrids.

Episcia lilacina (lye-lah-SIGHnah) means lilac-colored. These are not as free-blooming, but can produce pale lavender flowers. The fuzzy dark green leaves have a pattern of light green in the midrib. Popular hybrids of this group are 'Blue Nile' (blue flowers), 'Panama White' (white flowers), and 'Chocolate Velour' (fuzzy chocolate brown foliage). Even though this group may need a little more care to encourage them to bloom, it is well worth the extra effort.



Episcia planted in a strawberry jar.

Although flower color will vary with the type of *Episcia*, it is actually the great diversity of foliage color and texture that gives them the name 'Peacock Plant'. Many people grow them for the foliage alone, and gesneriad shows will have a 'grown for foliage' class. If you are going to show an *Episcia* this way, you must make sure all blooms and buds are removed before entering the plant.

As *Episcia* gain in popularity and more growers hybridize, many varieties have a similar appearance. If you are selecting for variety from a catalog list, I would recommend: 'Silver Skies', 'Sun Dog', 'Kempfenfest', 'Kee Wee', 'Karlyn', 'Cleopatra', 'Huron Holiday', 'Fire 'n' Ice', as well as the previously listed hybrids.



Episcia 'Adam's Rib'.

From *An Introduction to Gesneriads, African Violets, and Their Relatives*

Designing With African Violets

by Suzanne Ress

Understanding the basics of using African violets in flower design will allow people to participate in several ways. It may deepen your appreciation of the creations of others and may enable you to try your hand at design.

All Seasons AVC had a meeting recently where we created small designs for a six inch niche, basing our work on the following four "rules":

1. **Read the Show Schedule.** The schedule lets you know the theme for the designs - the image that you will interpret. It also tells you the restrictions for each design - size, materials allowed, type of accessory or color - all of which are important considerations. The Rules at the back of the Schedule must also be read, because they lay down the law regarding special circumstances; for example, can a design touch the sides of the niche? Who do you contact to make your design reservation?
2. **Read the Design section of the AVSA Judges and Exhibitors Handbook.** The Handbook is available from AVSA, and the design section is a succinctly written guideline to design that can be a little overwhelming because it contains so much information. Reading it will give you an excellent base for understanding the components of a good design. Reading it will also give you an excellent understanding of what the judges are looking for and how they will score a design. The most creative interpretation will not do well if the designer does not incorporate the guidelines in the schedule, the principles of design presented in the Handbook, and the scale of points used by the judges for that particular design class.
3. **The African violet must be the focal point of the design (except in Container Gardens).** Step back from your creation and have a look. Your eye should naturally focus first on the African violet in the design. The accessories are there to support the African violet, add to the interpretation of the theme, and enhance the line and proportion of the overall design. You should not be distracted by the container, other plant material, the background, or by the proportions of the design not fitting the size of the

niche. Also, neatness counts. The mechanics of your design should not show. This means the Oasis used to hold the flowers or the plastic used to hold your root-ball should not be seen. Blobs of glue, nails, tacks, and tape, should all be invisible. Practice using these materials, and take a hard look at your finished design to check for these faults.

4. **Once you have finished your design, go back and remove at least 1/3 of the material.** When it comes to African violets and design, less is more. The delicate flowers and smaller leaves are easily overwhelmed by using masses of other plant material, or they get lost in elaborate containers (see Rule 3). Too much material obscures the line and flow of the design and makes it look heavy and blocky. It is important that you do at least one dry run before the show so you know what you're going to do, what you're going to use, and to give yourself a chance to evaluate and redo the design, if necessary. Because the proportion of the design to the niche size is extremely important, an invaluable aid is to use cardboard to build yourself a niche of the correct size. Then you can use it as you work to ensure that the design "fills the space". Although this is not a hard and fast rule, when I design, I try to place the violets in the middle third of the niche so they are not too close to the base and there will be material extending into the top third of the area.

Other recommendations for improving your design skills include looking at pictures of Japanese flower design. Their use of space, line, and proportion will give you a good idea of what you should be looking for in your own designs. Buy a hot glue gun and practice with it. Hot glue is the designer's friend, but takes getting used to. Go to yard sales and craft stores, and keep an eye out for stuff that could be put to good use in design.

The people who came to our meeting and tried creating a six inch design all said they had a good time, were encouraged by their results, and were willing to do it again. What more can you ask for?

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS





How Does Thy Garden Grow

Part II - The Deep Freeze

by Linda Golubski

On January 30 and 31, 2002, Kansas City, Missouri, was slapped by Mother Nature with the worst ice storm on record. My mother went to my house to let my dog out and called me at work to let me know that my power had gone off at one o'clock. When we got home at 6:30 PM, the power was still off, and the house was at 64 degrees. At 7:30 PM, the power came back on, and we cranked the heat up to 80 degrees, just in case the power went off again. The storm was raging on and on outside.

I had just gone to bed at 10 PM when all of the sudden, it sounded as though a train was on the roof. Ice was breaking off the trees and sliding down the roof producing a loud crash. My poor husband was sitting at the dining room table watching the news when two very large limbs from a forty year old tulip tree crashed into the roof directly over his head. They broke the plywood, but didn't come completely through the roof. They also took out my fireplace chimney.

If you looked outside, you could see the green glows of the transformers as they blew out. The snapping and cracking of tree branches was constant. At 10:15 PM the unthinkable happened! A large limb from a forty year old oak tree fell, ripping the electrical box and siding off one corner of our house. We were in total darkness and without heat.

We made it until daylight and assessed the damage. Our yard looked like a war zone! And that was not the worst of it. This storm raged on for two days, dumping sheets of ice on us. When all was said and done, it took three dump truck loads of branches and forty-five bags of yard waste to clean up our yard.

We had an electrician reconnect our box, and the best estimate the electric company could give for reconnecting our power was five days! We were an individual power outage, not a multiple outage which, of course, would be connected

first. We packed up our dog, a couple days' clothing, and by lantern I filled seventeen boxes with my most rare and precious plants. I have over 700, so there was no way I could move them all. Then, we headed to my mother's house. We checked on our house every morning before work and every night when we came home, wondering each time we entered the pitch dark, cold house if our possessions would still be there. What an eerie feeling! I watched the thermostat upstairs where the temperature had declined to thirty-eight degrees over a three day period. The plant room, which is downstairs, took four days to drop to forty-two degrees, which is where it stayed. The five day outage turned into nine days! I just knew I would return to a plant room of "MUSH". I had no alternative heat source.

The day finally came to return home. It was very depressing.

I've given this background so you will know how devastating this storm was. Now I'll tell you what I found upon my return. My orchids were unscathed, and actually many of them put forth spikes of bloom over the next few months.

I lost about 70% of my cacti - about eighty plants. They didn't like the cold at all! Not that cold, anyway.

Unfortunately, I had just watered everything, which really did them in! Had they been dry - neglect would have been a plus here - the roots would not have gotten as cold and would have had a higher survival rate. If I had been thinking clearly, I should have taken the wicks out of the reservoirs. Hind sight is wonderful!

Of all my violets, my species had the highest survival rate. I lost about 1/3 of them, about fifteen plants. I lost all but two standards, about eighteen plants. Kent Stork's 'Sacajawea' and an old one called 'Flamingo' were the survivors. I lost over 100 minis and semi-minis. The hardest hit of all were my miniature

sinningias. Of 400 plants, I now have about eighty left. The tubers froze and turned to mush literally! I cried.

I have waited a long time to write this article to see how all the plants progressed or digressed. At first I didn't think it was so bad. Only a few plants looked harmed, but as time went on the devastation to my violets became apparent. The standard's outer leaves were damaged, but I just let them sit to see what they would do. Soon the centers went bad, so I waited to see if any suckers would form. My biggest surprise was that from the suckers or small centers that did survive, the plants that grew from them were stunted.

The minis and semi-minis improved, but as time went on the centers became very tight and started suckering, producing deformed plants that had no centers at all. I took off as many leaves as were usable and put them down, throwing out the plants. Some just couldn't be saved.

My species that survived were also suffering from stunt-ed growth, but some couldn't be replaced so I repotted them and left them alone. Around September, nine months later, they began to show new growth that was normal in size and shape, and the correct color. Finally some success!

The plants that went to Mother's house didn't have a picnic either. They lived in total darkness in overcrowded boxes for eleven days. The box of most coveted gesneriads, my petrocosmeas, was dumped upside down, and they fell out on their heads onto my mother's brand new beige carpeting. I cried the entire time I "tried" repotting and putting them back in the box. It took three months of sitting in shock and sulking before they began to grow again. I didn't lose

even one! And for my heroism, in September at the Heart of America Gesneriad Society show, I won Best in Show with *Petrocosmea forrestii*. All my tears had not been in vain.

If you attended the 2001 Chicago Convention, maybe you may remember the *Nautilocalyx porphyrotrichus* I had in a 20" square Plexiglas box. The plant was about 18" in diameter, and was full of red blooms with black lips. All that survived was one leaf. I put it down in my leaf mix, and now have five small plants growing. I also got a cutting from Susan Grose, president of AGGS. The cutting she gave me was from a cutting I had given her a year before. Be generous and share your plants! You never know when you might need one back!

The bright side of the tragedy is the fact that I found that I have many friends. Local club members brought me leaves, cuttings, and plants to replenish my plant room. Bill Price from Canada and Paul Kroll from New York brought me species leaves. I now only need four more to make my species collection complete. I have found out what I already knew - African violet people are wonderful!

One final thought. Many years ago, twenty-seven to be exact, we used to be able to sit in our driveway and watch the July 4th fireworks at our local high school. Over the years our trees have grown too tall, so we have to drive a couple of blocks to see the display. This year we celebrated the 4th of July sitting on our deck and watching the fireworks, thanks to Mother Nature's "topping of our trees".

Our home is finally repaired, our trees have all been professionally trimmed, and my plant room is happy again.

In Remembrance

RUTH WARREN



The northeast African violet community has lost a valued member and devoted worker. Ruth Warren died on Tuesday, November 26th, 2002.

Ruth served in nearly every office of the Bay State and Moby Dick African Violet Societies. She was a tireless worker in all areas. She was dedicated to the success of the Bay State exhibit at the Boston Flower Show, and was the perennial judges chair for the annual Bay State Show. Ruth also lobbied for judging schools in New England, and served as chairman of the very successful 1990 AVSA Convention in Boston.

Ruth was a member of AVSA for thirty-two years, attended twenty-three national conventions, and was also a Life Member for several years. She served as a director and as the chairman of the AVSA Booster Fund and Building Maintenance Fund committees. She had been a member of the AVSA Convention Committee for fourteen years, and with husband, Bert, served for twelve years on the AVSA Library Committee.

AVSA recognized Ruth's efforts in Washington, D.C. with the AVSA Continuing Service Award. That recognition was very meaningful to her.

DON NESS

The African violet community suffered an immeasurable loss recently with the passing of Don Ness.

Don tried his hand at crossing African violets and found that he was able to create unique varieties that were soon to become the birth of the Ness hybrids. Don did the hybridizing and photographing while his wife, Jean, tended the young plants into mature specimens that soon became prize winners all over the world. Their love of the hobby was evident in their creations. They were a winning pair, and soon the demand for their plants led them into a commercial venture known as Midland Violets.

Don was a member of the Minnesota AV Society, the North Star AV Council, and along with Jean, was instrumental in the creation of the Lakes Area Violet Growers.

Many of Don's and Jean's creations became "must have" plants such as 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', 'Ness' Satin Rose', and 'Ness' Viking Maiden'. These plants are perennial show winners and top the list of "Honor Roll" plants. Don's creations are a living tribute to his memory.



How Do I Do It?

by Robert Albro

My plant growing facility is a dedicated room in my home. I do not have the luxury of having a basement, and I am very jealous of those who do. I am, however, quite content on how things seem to be working. I'm always looking for ways to improve on this or that. I have most everything running on automatic when possible. I can leave and go on a vacation for several weeks, and my plants will not suffer other than the lack of a little grooming and TLC. I'm lazy and like for things to take care of themselves. I have the philosophy of "keeping things simple" and "if it ain't broke don't fix it."

The Light Stands.

I have nine plant stands with three shelves each. Over each shelf, I have two 4" fixtures with two bulbs each, or four bulbs over each shelf. If I have any problems, it is too much light. However, I would rather have too much light than not enough, as too much light is easier to correct.

Eight out of the nine light stands have reservoirs built right onto the shelves. Each shelf reservoir will hold eight gallons of water and will last upwards of 20 to 26 days, depending on the season. The reservoirs are lined with pond liner purchased from a local home improvement store. Suspended over the reservoirs on foam blocks is a 24" x 48" fib-light grid that holds the polar fleece I use for matting. The ninth plant stand is just shelves for wicking and the use of 11" x 22" x 2 1/2" black trays, also from a home improvement store. These black trays are set up exactly like the big trays.

The bottom tray is dedicated to propagation and will hold four black trays sitting on a heat mat with a thermostat set for 75 degrees. These propagation trays have high clear domes for humidity. I use the heat mat mainly in the cooler months. The two upper shelves are used primarily for miscellaneous gesneriads on wicks. My lights stay on for 12 hours per day. The lights are 12" above the standards and 9" above the semiminiatures and sinningias.

The Soil.

I use ProMix BX, and to this I add perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, and lime. I use this mix for everything. That includes all of my violets, gesneriads, and cuttings. With seeds, I add a very thin layer of very fine vermiculite on top of the soil for sowing. I made a soil tumbler out of a plastic

drum to mix my soil. My soil recipe is as follows: 12 quarts ProMix, 6 quarts perlite, 4 quarts vermiculite, 1 cup charcoal, and 2 tablespoons of lime. I store my soil in a big garbage can to dry. I don't wet the soil because that is what helps activate the lime. I want it to be activated at potting time.

Propagation.

Propagation starts in either a 2 1/2" square pot for standards, or a 2 1/4" square pot for the semiminiatures. I first put a short piece of nylon cord through the drain hole and into the pot leaving about 3/4" hanging out. This is to insure that I get a good wicking action. I then place a thin layer of soil in the bottom, then add the appropriate amount of Marathon. I fill the rest of the pot with soil. Into this I insert the leaf cutting, firming in slightly, putting an identification label behind the leaf for support. The pot is then put into a container of 10 drops of Superthrive to a gallon of water, and allowed to soak up what it needs. From there it goes into a domed tray under the lights. As soon as I see the little plantlets popping through the soil, I take them from under the domes and put them out in the open, feeding them with a 1/8th teaspoon per gallon of Peters 20-20-20. My gesneriads are treated the same, except they are put into whatever pot and size I deem fit.

Potting.

My rooted cutting go into a 2 1/8" pot for semiminiatures, and my standards go into 2 1/2" pots. The potting method is the same for both. Put a short tail into the drainage hole, add a little soil and the appropriate amount of Marathon, fill the rest of the pot with soil, add the plantlet, soak in Superthrive/water mixture, and place under the lights. The 'potting up' process is done the same way, except I pot when the plants start to bloom. The semiminiatures go into 2 1/2" round pots, and the standards are put into 4" pots.

Water and Fertilizer.

I use Physan, 1/2 teaspoon to one gallon of water, at all times, on everything. The fertilizer is still not a done deal. I grow a lot of variegated plants, and a few don't stay variegated very long. So I am experimenting in this area.

I am open and always looking for new ways and methods of doing things, especially if it will make things easier!

From *The Violet Chatter* and *The Dixie News*

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat. 10:26 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
2 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 9:55 pm
3 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
4 Tue. 8:50 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
5 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
6 Thu. 8:36 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
7 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
8 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
9 Sun. 9:38 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
10 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
11 Tue. 9:12 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 2:15 am
12 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
13 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
14 Fri. 5:06 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
15 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
16 Sun. 8:52 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
17 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
18 Tue. 9:43 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	Full 5:35 am
19 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
20 Thu. 9:38 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
21 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
22 Sat. 10:33 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
23 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
24 Mon. 1:48 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th 8:51 pm
25 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
26 Wed. 7:51 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
27 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
28 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
29 Sat. 4:26 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
30 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
31 Mon. 3:04 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 2:19 pm
2 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
3 Thu. 3:20 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
4 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
5 Sat. 4:24 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
6 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
7 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
8 Tue. 4:36 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
9 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 6:40 pm
10 Thu. 1:54 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
11 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
12 Sat. 7:07 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
13 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
14 Mon. 8:42 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
15 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
16 Wed. 8:16 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full 2:36 pm
17 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
18 Fri. 7:51 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
19 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 Sun. 9:20 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
21 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
22 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
23 Wed. 1:58 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 7:18 am
24 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
25 Fri. 10:02 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
26 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
27 Sun. 8:54 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
28 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
29 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
30 Wed. 9:26 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th

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Coming Events



March 1 - TEXAS

AVS of Beaumont Annual Sale
Central Mall
Port Arthur, TX
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Cecile Mason (409) 385-3423

March 1 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Show/Sale
Houston Arboretum
4501 Woodway Dr. (Memorial Park)
Houston, TX
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Admission is free
Info: Elaine Click (713) 462 - 4257
Email: eclick@aol.com

March 1 & 2 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola 27th Annual Show/Sale
Scottish Rite Temple
2 East Wright St.
Pensacola, FL
Mar 1 - 2pm - 6pm
Mar 2 - Noon - 4:30pm
Info: Bev Promersberger (850) 458-7393
Email: promers22@hotmail.com

March 1 & 2 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK
Mar 1 - 10am - 4pm
Mar 2 - noon - 4pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627-7395

March 7 & 8 - TEXAS

Magic Knight AVS Annual Show/Sale
2310 SW Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX
Mar 7 - 9am - 9pm
Mar 8 - 9am - 7pm
Info: Shirley Sanders (210) 923 - 1093

March 8 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26500 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut (310) 325 - 2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 8 & 9 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Show
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French St.
Boylston, MA
Mar 8 - noon - 5pm
Mar 9 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Carol Hess (508) 872 - 7574

March 13 - 15 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, and
First Nighter AVS Combined Show/Sale
Richardson Square Mall
Plano & Beltline
Richardson, TX
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

March 14 - 16 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers
Spring Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Co. Rd. B and Snelling Ave
Roseville, MN
Mar 14 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 15 - 10am - 7pm
Mar 16 - noon - 6pm
Info: Jean Ness (651) 429-4109

March 15 - CALIFORNIA

AVSA Judging School
Senior Center
Fulton St. @ 38th Ave.
San Francisco, CA
9am
Info: Fred Grafelman (415) 664 - 9308

March 15 & 16 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS
34th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Zilker Park
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
@ Austin Area Garden Center
Mar 15 - 10am - 4:30pm
Mar 16 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jeanette Pursley (512) 243 - 2289
Email: tjean21@netzero.net

March 20 - 22 - TENNESSEE

Dixie AVS Annual Convention/Show/Sale
Days Hotel and Suites
Memphis Airport
Memphis, TN
Info: Marian Zoller (901) 372 - 0283

March 21 - 22 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale
Erwin Hall
First Presbyterian Church
1114 W. University Dr.
Denton, TX
Mar 21 - 1:30pm - 6pm
Mar 22 - 10am - 4pm

March 22 & 23 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS
28th Annual Judged Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept. Hall
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave.
West Sayville, NY
Donation: \$1.50
Info: (631) 581 - 8116

March 28 - 30 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Spring Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Snelling Ave. and Co. Road B
Roseville, MN
Mar 28 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 29 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 30 - noon - 5pm
Info: Palma Trapp (763) 780 - 7317
Betty Smith (715) 386 - 5623

March 28 & 29 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Judged Show/Sale
The Church of the Brethren
2175 Bonita Ave.
La Verne, CA
Mar 28 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 29 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQueen
(909) 672 - 7353
(626) 919 - 2594

March 29 & 30 - NEW YORK

Saintpaulia Society of Long Island
St Mary of the Isles Parish Hall
Park Ave. & Monroe Blvd.
Long Beach, New York
Mar 29 - 3pm - 7pm
Mar 30 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Claire Schirtzer (516) 432-6843
Email: cjschirtzer@email.msn.com

March 29 & 30 - MICHIGAN

Town & Country
AVC of Michigan Show/Sale
Oxford Public Library
530 Pontiac Rd.
Oxford, MI
Mar 29 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 30 - 1pm - 5pm
Info: Lynn Allen (248) 332-7924
Email: lynnallen@peoplepc.com
Claude Norton (517) 626 - 6941
Email: cknorton@worldnet.att.net

March 29 & 30 - MISSOURI

Sho-Me AVC Annual Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Mar 29 - 10am - 3pm
Mar 30 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258
Email: jewel101@earthlink.net

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

Bergen County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Old North Reformed Church
Corner of Washington and
Madison Avenues
Dumont, NJ
Apr - 4 - 3pm - 9pm
Apr 5 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Joe DeSimon (201) 261-4215
Barbara Church (201) 385 - 1630

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey AVS Show/Sale
First Baptist Church
232 Main St.
Matawan, NJ
Apr 4 - 3pm - 7pm
Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: David Tooker (732) 219 - 6677
Email: Davidtook@aol.com
Jan Murasko (732) 821 - 8641

April 4 - 6 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Judged Show/Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens/ Baker Hall
6700 Azalea Garden Rd.
Norfolk, VA
Apr 4 - noon - 5pm
Apr 5 - 2:30pm - 5pm
Apr 6 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Linda Stinnette (757) 484 - 4689
Carol Van (757) 851 - 2543
Email: rwseagle@aol.com

April 4 - 6 - IOWA

Quad-Cities AVS Judged Show/Sale
Northpark Mall
320 W. Kimberly Rd.
Davenport, IA
Apr 4 & 5 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 6 - noon - 5pm
Info: LuAnn Christenson
(563) 355 - 0726
Email: xenson@mcleodusa.net

April 5 & 6 - OHIO

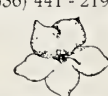
Columbus AVS Show/Sale
Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH
Apr 5 - 10am - 5pm
Apr 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Carr
Email: afvioletfan@insight.rr.com

April 4 & 5 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council
25th Anniversary Show/Sale
Northtown Mall
Hwy 10 & University Ave. NE
Blaine, MN
Info: Sandy Officer (952) 835 - 8603

April 5 & 6 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis
AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd.
St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Glenda Holm (636) 441 - 2198



April 5 & 6 - CONNECTICUT

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Canoe Brook Senior Center
16 Cherry Hill Rd.
Branford, CT
Apr 5 - 1pm - 3:30pm
Apr 6 - 10am - 3:30pm
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481 - 9455

April 5 & 6 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester Annual Show/Sale
Peninton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd.
(Routes 250 & 31)
Perinton, NY
Apr 5 - 2pm - 6pm
Apr 6 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (585) 381 - 6384
Email: IrwinWag@aol.com

April 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA

Capital City AVS Judged AV Show/Sale
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA
Apr 5 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Kathy Norton (916) 684 - 1496

April 5 & 6 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS Annual Show/Sale
John A. Anderson Recreation Center
111 North Oceanside Rd
Rockville Center, NY
Apr 5 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 6 - noon - 5pm
Info: Jeanne Maier (516) 593 - 4623
Florence Schnauer (516) 379 - 6631

April 5 & 6 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County Judged Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
53 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Apr 5 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Apr 6 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464 - 4417
Email: HFJG.Fischer@worldnet.att.net

April 5 & 6 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain
AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York St.
Denver, CO
Info: Ann Watterson (303) 467 - 2135
Email: cah2oson@msn.com

April 10 & 11 - SOUTH CAROLINA

First AVS of Spartanburg Plant Sale
Woodland Heights Recreation Center
1261 John B. White Blvd.
Spartanburg, SC
Apr 10 - 1pm - 6pm
Apr 11 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Cami Ingle (864) 967 - 8812
Email: camingle@aol.com

April 11 - WISCONSIN

Milwaukee AVS Show/Sale
Warnamont Park Sr. Center
6100 South Lake Dr.
Cudahy, WI
Hours: 11:30am - 5pm
Info: Dorothy Fossum (414) 444 - 3905

April 11 & 12 - CANADA

Stampede City
AVS 27th Annual Show/Sale
Northland Village Mall
5111 Northland Dr. NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Apr 11 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 12 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300
Email: violets@telus.net
Web Site: <http://www3.telus.net/scavs>

April 12 & 13 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Spring Show/Sale
Garden Center Albuquerque
10120 Loma Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Apr 12 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 13 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384-5026

April 12 & 13 - NEW YORK

AV & Gesneriad Society of WNY Show/Sale
Walden Galleria Mall
1 Walden Galleria (NYS Thruway Exit 52)
Cheektowaga, NY
Apr 12 - noon - 9pm
Apr 13 - 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Holly Pohl (716) 684-1387
Email: Corabells51@aol.com
Shirley Sampson (716) 695 - 8929
Email: shirleysampson@aol.com

April 12 & 13 - NEW YORK

Capital District AVS Show/Sale
Foundation of NYS Nurses Assoc.
2113 Western Ave.
Guilford, NY
Apr 12 - 1pm - 5pm
Apr 13 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Margaret Califano (518) 785 - 3107
Email: ecalifa1@nycap.rr.com

April 12 & 13 - CALIFORNIA

San Mateo County AVS Judged Show/Sale
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA
Apr 12 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 13 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Gary Beck (415) 771 - 2342
Email: garybeck@aol.com

April 16 - CALIFORNIA

Town & Country AVS Judged Show/Sale
Redlands Church of Christ
1000 Roosevelt Rd.
Redlands, CA
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: (909) 885 - 8260
(909) 792 - 6816

April 19 & 20 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Apr 19 - 10am - 4:30pm
Apr 20 - 11am - 2pm
Info: Ingrid Bowman (248) 698 - 3628

April 26 & 27 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Show/Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake Cook Rd, East of I-94
Glencoe, IL
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801

April 26 & 27 - CANADA

Monctonian AVS Spring Show
MacArthur's Nursery
232 McLaughlin Dr.
Moncton, NB, Canada
Info: Nancy Szeves (506) 855 - 3515
Email: gns@nb.aibn.com

May 2 & 3 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVA Show/Sale
Virginia Center Commons Mall
Rt. 1 North and I-295
Info: (804) 594 - 0643

May 2 & 3 - KENTUCKY

Four Rivers AVS Show/Sale
Kentucky Oaks Mall
5101 Hinkleville Rd.
1-24 & Hwy 60 West
Paducah, Kentucky
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Diane Fischer (270) 362 - 7515
Email: cndfischer@vol.com

April 2 - 4 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse 50th Annual Show/Sale
Shoppingtown Mall
3649 Erie Blvd. East
Syracuse, NY
May 2 - noon - 9pm
May 3 - 10am - 9:30pm
May 4 - 11am - 6pm

May 3 & 4 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Earthplace (formerly The Nature Center)
10 Woodside Ln.
Westport, CT
May 3 - 1:30pm - 5pm
May 4 - noon - 4pm
Info: (203) 226 - 1784
Email: marjorie.rosenberg@snet.net

May 3 & 4 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station
240 Beaver St.
Waltham, MA
May 3 - 2pm - 6pm
May 4 - 10am - 1pm
Info: Susan Gimblet (401) 624 - 8066
Email: gimblet@apol.net

May 3 - CALIFORNIA

Carlsbad AVS Judged Show/Sale
El Camino Plaza Mall
Carlsbad, CA
Hours: 12:30pm - 7pm
Info: Patty Ragan (310) 372 - 1771
Email: PLRBKLDY579@aol.com

May 3 - MISSOURI

Heart of Missouri AVS Show/Sale
Trinity Presbyterian Church
1600 Rollins Rd.
Columbia, MO
Hours: 9am - 2pm
Info: Dorothy Anderson (573) 442 - 4798
Email: dander02@coin.org

May 3 - NEVADA

Reno-Sparks AVS Show/Sale
Reno Town Mall
Peckham at South Virginia
Reno, NV
Info: Kathy Roubal (530) 993 - 1425
Email: kroubal@fs.fed.us

May 3 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montreal Annual
Display/Sale
Church of the Resurrection
99 Mount Pleasant Rd.
Point Claire, Quebec
Hours: Noon - 5pm
Info: Greta Durand (514) 695 - 5149

May 3 & 4 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal Annual
Judged Show
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrook St. East
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Monique Beaucage (514) 990 - 5701
Email: monique_beaucage@hotmail.com

May 3 & 4 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of South Bay Show/Sale
Westgate Mall
1600 Saratoga Ave.
San Jose, CA
May 3 - 9am - 7pm
May 4 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Irene Thomas (650) 369 - 3452

May 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

Coastal Plain AVC Sale
Nash Co. Senior Center
(at rear of Cultural Bldg.)
Washington St.
Nashville, NC
Hours: 9am - 4pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (252) 459 - 3722

May 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS
Mother's Day Plant Sale
Crossroads Mall
US 19
Clearwater, FL
Mall Hours
Info: Phyllis King (727) 398 - 7450
Email: phyllisk@gte.net

May 9 & 10 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7899 W. Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH
May 9 - 9am - 9pm
May 10 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546
Email: mbell77@msn.com

May 9 & 10 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC Annual Show/Sale
Catonsville United Methodist Church
Melvin Ave.
Catonsville, MD
May 9 - 1pm - 5pm
May 10 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Shirley Huffman (301) 953 - 7554
Email: Bshuffman2@aol.com

May 10 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall
Guerneville Rd. at Hwy 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

May 10 - WISCONSIN

Sundowners AVC and Crosstown
AVC Joint Plant Sale
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI
Hours: 9am - 4pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552
Email: petersonad@aol.com

May 10 & 11 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Show/Sale
Eastgate Mall
Rt. 32 Exit off Rt. 275
Cincinnati, OH
Mall Hours
Info: Penny Wichman (513) 689 - 5570
Email: pennywic@aol.com



African Violet 'Tough Love': Indulging Your Passion Without Becoming a Slave in Your Own Home

by Richard Follett

The story of the wide-eyed innocent who falls under the spell of one African violet and soon ends up with a collection of two hundred varieties and no free time is well on its way to becoming an urban legend. Let's face it – African violets are addictive, and there is just NO way to be casually involved! It is possible, however, to pursue your 'AV'ocation without completely losing control. A little bit of 'tough love' will lead to maximum enjoyment *and* African violets that will be admired by all. If your African violet collection is running your life to the point where YOU feel like running, consider the following:

- a. The world WILL NOT come to an end if you throw away the leaves you just trimmed or broke off of your African violet. We are perennially awed by the miracle of a new plant grown from a single leaf, but each one of those leaves, when put down to root, will eventually produce one to a dozen mature plants. If you do not have a specific space in mind or a specific purpose for propagating (e.g. a show/sale, trade, etc.), pitch your leaves/cuttings *immediately*. If you MUST put down leaves to root each time you trim or they break off, strictly limit yourself to the best leaf of each variety.
- b. African violets take *time* to cultivate. Although my findings are not backed by any official studies, experience has taught me that each African violet plant grown for casual enjoyment (not grown to show standards) takes about fifteen minutes of time per week. Using this equation, one hour of time devoted to your African violets each day would give you enough hands-on attention for a collection of twenty-eight African violets. Every hour skipped means an hour owed – if you slack off Monday through Friday, expect to work all day Saturday to keep your collection blooming and looking its best. Wick all you want to, strew your apartment with self-watering pots; in the long run, there is just no way to cheat the equation. Go ahead – acquire two hundred African violets – just be sure you know in advance where you are going to find the FIFTY HOURS A WEEK they will require of you!
- c. If an African violet refuses to produce for you, trade it, give it away, or throw it away. This is a tough discipline to make yourself follow, but adhering to it will greatly increase both your success and your enjoyment. Despite the great variety of leaf types and variations available, the culture of African violets is, for most, a quest for

BLOOMS. A plant that has produced magnificent leaves and no blooms for you will most likely continue to do so indefinitely and needs to be cleared to create shelf space for more deserving, productive specimens or varieties. A friend and I once had African violets of the same variety that refused to bloom for either of us. After months of this frustration, we swapped our 'twin' plants and were BOTH rewarded with lovely blooms within three weeks!

- d. DO NOT ASSUME that smaller plants require less maintenance! The opposite is true. Semi-mini and mini African violets require more frequent attention and react more quickly and more severely to adverse conditions. You are lying to yourself if you think that five minis can be taken care of in the same fifteen minutes as one large African violet simply because they occupy the same amount of shelf space. The same rule holds true for juvenile plants – they may not need quite as much hands-on time in the beginning, but they will very quickly become full-sized adults and begin demanding their fair share of 'face time'! Don't push the boundaries and cheat the African violets or yourself.
- e. If an African violet gets thrips, mealy bugs, or some other dreaded pest and you know it is a variety you can replace, PITCH THE INFECTED PLANT IMMEDIATELY! This is a heartbreak, but nothing at all compared to the heartbreak of laboring for days or weeks on a diseased plant only to lose the battle and perhaps infect your other African violets along the way. Regardless of the outcome, the plant will be weakened by its ordeal and will need a long time to fully recover. If you are particularly attached to the plant or think you might have trouble replacing it, trim off the two BEST leaves, soak them in a mild bleach solution, and root them in separate locations in case one doesn't take. The two best insurance policies I have found are to isolate new plants and to give leaves of favorite varieties to friends to root as a backup in case yours goes to the African violet Hereafter.
- f. Make sure your eyes are not bigger than your light stand or window sill. This is a hard one – I had to train myself by carrying a paper template of my available shelf space to the store or show with me! I spread my prospective choices out on the paper, and if they fit comfortably there, I knew they would not exceed my available space.
- g. Control yourself at giveaways! When I went to my first AVSA convention, I received more than fifty new vari-

eties as promotional items from vendors or as 'souvenirs' at programs. About half of these were placed in my hand by the giver (hard to refuse) and the other half were leaves I picked up because I couldn't resist the temptation. It took me four hours to put them all up to root, and more than a year later I am STILL trying to solve the problem of what to do with all of the mature African violets those leaves have become. It is a nice problem to have, but such an experience can make all the difference between you having fun with your African violets and your African violets having fun with YOU!

- h. Keep track of colors and get rid of older varieties as you acquire new ones. If you love reds and spend all your time searching for the ultimate color rush, why do you have to keep *every* experiment along the way? If your new red pleases you more than your six old ones, give the six old ones to some folks who have no reds at all – you will make their day and free up some shelf or light stand space for your new fantasy collection. There is one caveat to this guideline – NEVER throw away an heirloom violet! If you want to 'weed out' a variety that is more than ten years old and can be documented, PLEASE take the time to find it a good home with someone who will help to perpetuate it. Treasured African violet varieties are being lost each year because people either do not know what they have or assume that someone else has it, too.
- i. Print a paper copy of your African violet list and keep it in your purse or glove compartment. Not only will you be able to easily answer questions about what you have in your collection and set up leaf swaps, but you will also avoid duplicate acquisitions. Many is the time I purchased or traded for an African violet I already had before I figured this one out! Be sure to add new African violets to the list as you acquire them and delete those that have been weeded out or passed on to African violet Heaven.
- j. Avoid impulse purchases whenever possible. Unless you know for certain that the African violet you are admiring is rare or unusual and you will have a hard time finding it again, content yourself with making a mental or physical note to acquire it later. If you are still in love with a variety three months down the road, chances are you can locate it though a vendor or on the internet and purchase it when you know you have BOTH the desire and the space.

~ When All Else Fails ~

If you have diligently followed all of the above guidelines and you STILL find yourself awash in African violets for which you have no time and/or space, there are many ways to get yourself out of the hole. Consider the following strategies:

IF YOU HAVE NO TIME

1. Take a deep breath and DESIGNATE some time each day or each week for your African violets. Many times it is

not a lack of time but a lack of *quality* time that is the problem. Take the phone off the hook, turn off the cell and the pager, stay OFF the computer, turn off the TV, lock the door, and treat yourself to a half hour with nothing to pay attention to but your African violets. Then, set up a schedule and stick to it. The world won't stop turning, (I promise) and you might get a whole new outlook on life.

2. Look for a less meaningful activity to let go of. Maybe being Recording Secretary for the Canasta Club or volunteering at the clinic flossing cats doesn't fulfill you the way it used to. Substitute time with your African violets – you will give another social climber a chance AND live a happier life with your blooming buddies!
3. Look your non-essential African violets in the eye, call them by their rightful name, cry, and find them new homes. In other words, *streamline your collection*. You will have grateful recipients of your old plants and grateful remaining African violets that will reward you with beautiful flowers for the increased attention.

IF YOU HAVE NO SPACE

1. Invest in a light stand. Chances are what you are *really* lacking is not space itself, but space with adequate light. The same floor space that holds your twelve African violets now could hold forty-eight if you had a tiered light stand. Each time you feel the urge to buy a new African violet, take the three dollars you would spend and put it in a jar. Two hundred urges from now, you can call up your vendor of choice and have a light stand delivered to your door.
2. "Farm Out" some of your collection to your work site. Most corporate environments have overhead fluorescent lighting that is ideal for African violets. Offer to park an African violet on a co-worker's desk and to take care of any problems that might arise. Your co-worker will enjoy the African violet and may become a future enthusiast, and the benefits in terms of increased communication and *camaraderie* are just too numerous to mention. As you visit your co-workers to monitor the African violets' progress, you will forge quality relationships to last a lifetime. This works particularly well in schools, where pressures are great and African violets promote tranquility. Retired? Don't have a separate workplace? How about putting an African violet at your doctor's office or in the rectory of your church? One of my favorite stories concerns an African violet friend, short on space, who placed African violets in each room of a local assisted living facility. Trust me, the result continues to be pure magic.
3. Seek out low-cost growing space convenient to your home or work. Once, while waiting for renovation to be completed on one of the rooms where I grow African violets, I rented a heated storage unit and put my light stand with all of the African violets in there. I had to bring the water with me when I went to tend them, but it was con-

venient and close and probably cost me no more than the electricity for the light stand was costing at home. I set up a little portable fan to circulate the air and a tub of water to increase humidity and the African violets bloomed like crazy! If the work hadn't gotten finished at home, I could have been quite happy going on at the storage unit indefinitely. Here's another story: an acquaintance of mine rented an unused, windowless room at a local business for less than thirty dollars a month, electricity included, and has three light stands in there just *full* of beautiful African violets. The space was not suitable for renting to another business because it did not have windows or a separate entrance, so the owner was thrilled to see it so well used. Blooming African violets are often displayed in the customer serv-

ice area, and the business owner brags about the arrangement to the whole community!

It is possible to enjoy African violets at any and every level; the key to maximum enjoyment is remaining true to your available time and energy. If you need to downsize your collection or scale back the amount of time you are spending with your African violets in order to enjoy them more, just remember that all those plants can go to new homes and spread the joy of African violet culture to new enthusiasts. Increased demand also means more encouragement for hybridizers and vendors. Every time we share our African violets, the resulting influx of new fans ensures that heirloom, existing, and future varieties will be appreciated by generations to come.



Fertilizers

by Sue Hodges



Just as you need food, your plants need nourishment! The mixes that most of us use for our violets and other gesneriads are soilless and contain very little in the way of nutrients for the plants. In fact, those of us who grow on the wick system are really using a form of hydroponics.

Fertilizer labels state an analysis of the contents, often as N.P.K. This will tell you the proportion of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium contained in that fertilizer. Some fertilizers also contain trace elements that the plant needs in very small quantities.

Nitrogen promotes good growth and nice green leaves. A fertilizer that is higher in nitrogen will promote growth rather than promoting bloom, so it is good for young plants. Fish emulsion fertilizers are usually higher in nitrogen. Plants that are not getting enough nitrogen will have yellowing leaves that may be smaller than usual. A plant getting too much nitrogen will have sappy growth and few flowers, and it can be more susceptible to attack from insects and diseases.

Phosphorous is found in every plant cell. It is necessary for good root development and causes the stems to get firm and strong. Fertilizers that are higher in phosphorous will give good

bloom and strong growth. Many of the fertilizers formulated for African violets are slightly higher in phosphorous.

Potassium influences the plant's resistance to pests and diseases, as well as improving cool temperature tolerance. It helps the plant's uptake of nutrients and reduces water loss due to transpiration.

Most of the fertilizers that are formulated especially for African violets are "balanced" fertilizers, which will give you the correct proportions of the elements for your plants to grow and flower well even though the formulation of each is slightly different. If you are having good luck with your present fertilizer, do not be in a rush to change to something different. You know the old saying: "if you are on a good thing stick to it!" If you wish to experiment with something new, try a few plants first to be sure the results are as you wish. Strong fertilizers can burn African violet leaves, especially in hot weather, and fertilizer damage is irreversible.

From *African Violet News*, Official Journal of the African Violet-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.

**ALL COMING EVENT NOTICES MUST
REACH THE EDITOR BY THE DEADLINES
PRINTED IN THE INSIDE FRONT COVER
AND MUST BE IN WRITING.**

More About Leaves

by Pauline Bartholomew from her book *"Growing To Show"*

OFF-SIZED ROW OF LEAVES

Nothing detracts from the beauty of African violets more than a petticoat of off-sized, ragged, immature leaves. Plants should never go to a show in this disheveled state. Torn or spotted leaves are obvious, and there are lots of clues that give away immature or underdeveloped leaves. But unless the size difference is significant, an entire row of off-sized leaves is hard for the beginner to recognize.

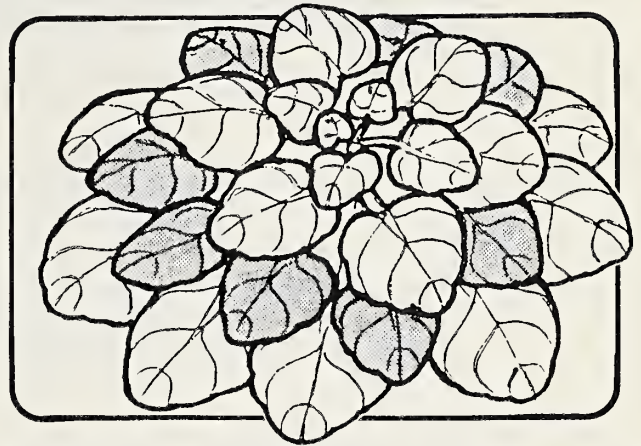
An off-sized row can be any row where the leaves are smaller than those of the next row above. The leaves have been stunted through one or more of the following lapses in culture:

1. *Not potting up at the proper time:* Growth is slowed when roots reach a certain stage of density. When the plant is finally potted up, growth eventually accelerates. As the new leaves grow in, they form rows of larger leaves.
2. *Not potting down a neck before it becomes too long:* The foliage experiences a setback. When the roots expand into the new soil, the new leaves become larger than existing ones.
3. *Not watering plants at the proper time:* Even though the plants survive, fine feeder roots are damaged when a plant is allowed to become too dry. Off-sized foliage is the result.
4. *Not controlling environmental factors or practicing consistent cultural methods:* Extreme or rapid changes in light hours, weather conditions, fertilizing, soil mix formulas, etc. will result in off-sized foliage.

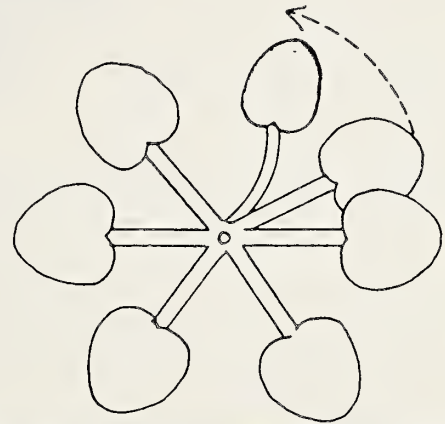
If the row of off-sized leaves is the outermost row, remove it and fill in around the resulting neck or, if necessary, pot the neck down. If it is an inner row, the row must be grown out until it can be removed. If there is not time to grow it out, and the plant is entered in a show, points will probably be deducted under condition. The grower must decide if the row is so noticeable that the plant would not win a blue ribbon.

WAYWARD LEAVES

Moving leaves (even if done gradually) and staking them into position in order to create better symmetry does not work.



It causes a new set of problems and, in the long run, the contrary leaves must be removed. Almost without exception, a wayward or curved-petiole leaf will prove to be an immature leaf. Remove it, and within a few weeks, the other leaves usually fall into place and fill the gap. Even rearranging the foliage by hand to fill in the gap sometimes results in instantly improved symmetry.



The two major drawbacks to staking a leaf are the stress to the petiole and the phenomenon of tropism. If a wayward leaf is moved too far out of the path it has taken, there is considerable stress at the juncture of the petiole and the main stem. This causes a leaf to weaken and fail to develop further; it may even expire.

Tropism is an involuntary response of an organism to an external stimulus. In this case, the pressure of a stake on a petiole causes it to curve in the direction of the stake, thus subverting its purpose.



Getting the Bugs Out: Blossom Thrips

by Jim Toms • Etobicoke, ON

Species: Many species of thrips affect African violets. The most common at present is the Western Blossom Thrips, a native of western North America, which has now also moved eastward. Note that "thrips" is both singular and plural. You do not see a "thrip" on that blossom; you see a "thrips", and you should hope that you don't see a thrips on any blossom in your collection.

Location: Thrips, both adult and larval, are most commonly observed dashing about the surfaces of the blossoms, most likely near the pollen sacs. The larvae of some species spend a part of the life cycle in the soil.

Description: Thrips are long and thin, from 0.5 to 5.0 mm in length. They resemble living snips of thread whipping around as they move. Color varies both by species and within species. They may be white, yellow, greenish, tan, brown, etc. Some species have wings in the adult phase.

Life Cycle: Most thrips reproduce from eggs, but there are livebearers as well. In some species, the females need not come into contact with males in order to produce young. In other words, your collection can literally become infested with the young of one thrips!

While different species have different life styles and feeding habits, the thrips that infest African violets generally thrive on pollen. That is why they are obvious on blossoms, especially near the pollen sacs. Pollen is rich in plant protein and makes a great diet. The larvae gorge for about 15 days and then pupate. The adults lay eggs or bear more young. A total life cycle is about 26 days.

Symptoms of Infestation:

The most obvious sign of a possible thrips infestation, if you do not see the insects themselves, is the presence of pollen on the petals. While a pollen sac can split naturally, this rarely happens. On seeing spilt pollen, look for thrips as the culprit.

Deprived of pollen, thrips will dine like sucking insects, primarily on the underside of the leaves where you should also look for them. Damage shows up as streaks or threadlike trails following the paths trod by hungry thrips. Affected leaves may look unhealthy and may die prematurely.

Source and Spread of Infestation:

Thrips spread from one African violet collection to another as plants are shared. Thrips are supposed to be in all of our outdoor gardens. It is usually suggested that they can come inside on pet fur, garden clothing, etc. As bulbs and

roses are supposed to be their most common outdoor habitat, I have inspected the blossoms of these two groups of plants many times, and have yet to see a thrips. My own feeling is that the thrips in our collections are acquired primarily from our fellow growers.

Prevention and Control:

Isolation of newly acquired plants must be practiced. Ninety days is suggested, and let them come into bloom during the ninety days to make any malingering thrips more evident. Close inspection of the leaves of a plant without blossoms may reveal them, but they are much easier to spot on blossoms. If thrips are spotted, disbud all infested plants and any others near them. If the infestation has spread to several areas of your collection, disbud everything. Keep the plants disbudded for at least three months; then let them begin to bloom. Inspect regularly for thrips. If any thrips are found, disbud totally again for three months. Do not let them come into full bloom again until there is no sign of thrips.

Some people recommend sticky paper or strips. The common yellow variety is considered ineffective, as thrips do not see yellow wavelengths of light. Therefore, they recommend the blue sticky strips. Either color is expensive, but blue is by far the costlier, and it is usually only obtained by special order and in large quantities. I once tried the blue and am proud to say that my \$15 expenditure did indeed produce a bigger catch of thrips than the cheaper yellow strips. But then, two has always been a bigger number than zero. Two lousy thrips for fifteen bucks! I strongly recommend a chemical approach. In the past, I have disbudded for as long as a year to no avail. Contact insecticides such as insecticidal soap will be ineffective, as the secretive nature of thrips keeps the majority of them out of harm's way most of the time. In the case of insecticidal soap itself, contact also does not seem to work except to produce the cleanest thrips in town. Acephate, diazinon, carbaryl, and malathion all work on thrips. Beware of leaf and blossom damage that will be caused by the latter two.

There is a natural control, a thrips-eating mite called *Amblyseius cucumeris* which is the size of a typical spider mite but amber in color. They are available from suppliers of natural predators. I have tried them, and with some coaxing, (prepare to cheer loudly!) they can be persuaded to devour a thrips before your eyes. They don't seem to be the most ambitious foragers and will often stand back watching the thrips feed, making the destruction of your blossoms a spec-

tator sport. I gave up on my weight-watching predators and disbudded. When the plants came back into bloom, I watched for thrips. I didn't find any, so perhaps the monsters had bigger appetites when I wasn't looking. I did find an extraordinary number of blossoms with shriveled or absent pollen sacs. Then I remembered hearing about what the mites might eat after eliminating all the thrips. He said he suspected they might take a little pollen. A little! I started opening the

deflated little pollen sacs. Sure enough! They had been turned into dwelling places for *Amblyseius*, which had decided to become the dominant species after the demise of the thrips. I considered spraying with miticide but thought better of that. The mites died out eventually. Did the vegetarian lifestyle not agree with them?

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

Starting Leaves

by Suzanne Ress

This article is the result of an experiment in propagating leaves started by Suzanne and exhibited on her well-designed Educational Exhibit at a Bay State AVS club show.

"What is the best way to propagate new African violets by starting leaves?"

The hypothesis was that the most effective method to start leaves was to keep the leaves enclosed and to use a mild fertilizer that boosted root formation.

The growing conditions were kept fairly simple:

- 12 leaves from the same plant were all planted in the same soil and grown under fluorescent lights.
- Half of the leaves were enclosed (placed in sealed plastic bags) and the other half were left uncovered (6 and 6).
- In each group, half were given just plain water, and half were given water with Superthrive (3 and 3).

To document plantlet development, weekly records were kept with any notes on growth or condition of the leaves, and some participants took weekly photos.

Results

As anticipated, the enclosed leaves did better, with baby



leaves appearing earlier with more leaves for each "mother leaf".

The enclosed leaves given water with Superthrive did slightly better than the "plain water" leaves.

An unexpected benefit to this experiment was the documentation of the ease of care for the enclosed leaves. The leaves that were left uncovered had to be watered weekly. The leaves enclosed in a plastic bag did not need watering for the entire twelve weeks of the monitored growing period. Leaves that were simply covered by a plastic bag that was left unsealed did need regular watering.

Conclusions

The major difference in growth was seen between leaves that were enclosed versus those left uncovered. Leaves enclosed in plastic sprouted baby leaves two or three weeks earlier and had more baby leaves, on average.

While the use of Superthrive may have contributed to a slightly better performance for the enclosed leaves, the number of baby leaves produced did not vary significantly between the plain-water group and the Superthrive water group.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

AVSA Scholarship Applications

AVSA Scholarship applications are encouraged for the academic year, 2003-2004. Check the AVSA web site for the application form and remember the deadline for appli-

cations is April 1, 2003. We ask for applications to be mailed to: Charles Ramser, Chairman; 2413 Martin Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE -	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
3 5/16 IN WIDE		
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any current advertiser or commercial member in good standing may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page Vendor List and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Commercial Membership - \$32.00 per year (USA) \$33.75 per year (International). Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$15.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & white for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$172.50 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
1825 W. Lincoln St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Phone: (918) 355-8020
email: AVMads@msn.com

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

Wick Watering

by Lisa DiMambro

The number one problem most have after starting to wick their plants is root rot, which is a result of the root ball being too wet. I suggest starting with a soil mix containing at least 50% added, extra perlite. If the plants still seem too wet, add more. The goal is to keep the soil slightly moist. I don't recommend wicking a newly repotted plant, if most of the roots have been removed, or babies that are newly potted up as they do not have the root growth to absorb the water, and the result will be rot.

There are many different types of wicking material, from acrylic yarn to panty hose strips to nylon cord. There is much debate over which one to use and whether to use one or two plies, or even to split the yarn or cord you are using to make it thinner. I have used many types over the years and have come to one conclusion - the type or thickness of the wick doesn't matter, unless it is too small to pull up enough water, causing the plant to dry out.

I have personally found that the #18 nylon Mason's twine works best for wicking. It is able to pull up enough water for even the heavy drinkers like large chiritas in bloom, which is an advantage over yarn. If you let the reservoir and plant dry out, you can just add water to the reservoir, and even dry mason's twine wick will pull up the water.

Therefore, soaking dry wicks for ten minutes to restart is no longer necessary.

Another important issue in wick watering is your reservoirs. You should empty and rinse them with plain water at least every three weeks so fertilizer salts don't build up to high levels.

In summary, your soil is the deciding factor. The wick will pull up as much moisture as your soil will hold, no more. So if you are wicking and your plants stay too wet, add more perlite to your mix. I also don't believe that the amount of wick that is in contact with the soil or water makes any difference, for the same reason. Also, if you have the correct balance in your soil, you do not need to let the reservoir dry out between waterings.

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Specials Price List \$1.00



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Some Varieties From Our Catalogs

TOWNSEND - RD'S GLEAM - Large pink stars edged in fuchsia glitter. Large medium green foliage. This is a pretty one from Australia.

BROWNLIE - ACA'S ELOISE - Large white blossoms with red eye and edges over medium green foliage. Very showy on your shelves or in a show. SM

SORANO - PARTY PARASOL - Large mauve/pink stars with soft pink fringed edge. Foliage medium green standard. 2nd best new introduction at National last year.

SANDERS - SHIRL'S RUFFLED PETTICOAT - Double light blue blossom with a white ruffled edge. Foliage is green and white variegation with a touch of pink. SM

STORK - CORAL SEA - Double dark coral ruffled large blossom that shows off over dark green wavy foliage. Standard

We have trailers. New and older varieties. Catalog available for \$2.00. Plants of the customer's choice \$4.50 each with a minimum of 6 plants per order. Shipping and handling on up to 6 plants \$8.00. Quantities over that amount, check our catalog.

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Our 2003 Color Catalog will be available about February 15, 2003.
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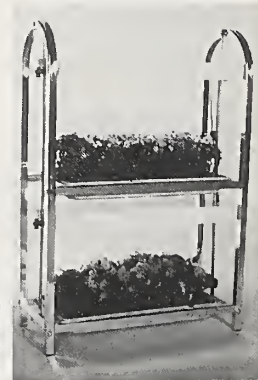
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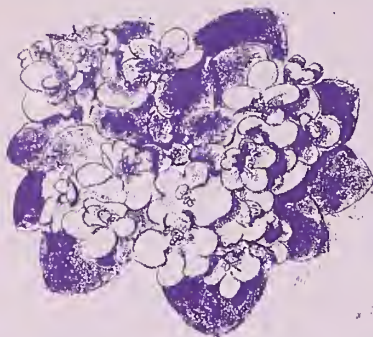
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